



## In scramble to stop virus, testing raises tough questions

By M. STOBBE/A. GELLER  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Health officials confronted tough questions and doubts Thursday about testing to intercept the fast-spreading virus, with scrutiny focused on a four-day delay in screening an infected California woman despite her doctors' early calls to do so.

The questions are global: not just who, when and how to test for the illness, but how to make sure that working test kits get out to the labs that need them.

All those issues apparently came in to play in the treatment of the woman in northern California, a case officials say may be the first community-spread instance of the disease in the U.S.



This undated photo provided by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows CDC's laboratory test kit for the new coronavirus.

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press



Sharing Menu \$50 per couple

2 appetizers + 1 Main dish + 1 Dessert

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 - Eagle Beach, Aruba - www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com - Closed Mon  
Info: + 297 525 4000 (Ext 172) / 588 3958 - reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com



## Craving a Good Steak?



One pound of Natural grass-Fed Beef from the Argentinean Pampas, Grilled to perfection by our Master Chefs over a real Charcoal Fire... Juicy, Lean and full of Flavor.

It's time for **El Gaucho** Steak



Closed on Sundays

Open Monday through Saturday from 11:30am till 11pm. For reservations call 582-3677  
Lunch and Early Bird specials available till 5pm. Happy Hour from 5-7pm



Only **6** Luxury **Villas**  
In the **Best** Location on **Eagle Beach**  
**Azure Beach Residences**

Visit our sales office at Azure Beach Residences.  
**+297 5946395** www.azure-aruba.com





# In scramble to stop virus, testing raises tough questions

Continued from From

"This was a clear gap in our preparedness, and the virus went right through the gap," said Dr. Ali Khan, dean of the University of Nebraska College of Public Health.

In the wake of the latest California case, U.S. health officials on Thursday expanded their criteria for who should get tested, and took steps to increase testing.

The debate over testing has taken on added urgency as the number of cases worldwide climbed past 82,000, including 2,800 reported deaths. The rapid spread pushed officials in Saudi Arabia to cut travel to Islam's holiest sites, triggered tougher penalties in South Korea for people who break quarantines and ratcheted up pressure on investors as U.S. stock markets extended their week-long plunge. The Dow Jones Industrial Average sank nearly 1,200 points Thursday, its worst one-day drop since 2011. With the illness rippling

across 47 nations in every continent but Antarctica, public health officials emphasized the need for rapid intervention.

"Aggressive early measures can prevent transmission before the virus gets a foothold," World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. He cited a study in China of more than 320,000 test samples that enabled health officials to zero in on the 0.14 percent that screened positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

But catching the disease early will require countries to invest in rapid diagnostics, said Dr. Gagandeep Kang, a microbiologist who heads the Translational Health Science And Technology Institute in India.

Test kits used by the World Health Organization cost less than \$5 each, said Michael Ryan, the group's emergencies programs director. But that figure does not include the expense of medical staff and validation screening, and making such investments effective



South Korean army soldiers wearing protective suits spray disinfectant to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus on a street in Daegu, South Korea, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

goes well beyond the expense involved.

Doctors at the University of California Davis Medical Center were mindful of the need for early identification on Feb. 19 when the hospital admitted a female patient on a ventilator who showed symptoms of a viral infection.

They asked she be tested for the new coronavirus, according to an email hospital officials sent to their employees, but a test was not administered because she did not fit federal test criteria. The test was not done until four days later, on Feb. 23, and the results did not come back until Wednesday, a full week after she was admitted, the hospital said.

The federal agency in charge of testing, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, took issue with that account late Thursday. The agency said it was still investigating, but that a preliminary review showed it had not been informed of the case until Feb. 23, when it requested specimens for testing. It said criteria in place at the time could have allowed the woman to be tested earlier.

The case highlights the fact that most testing in U.S. up to now has been limited to those who, in addition to showing symptoms, have a

history of travel to countries affected by the disease or contact with those who have done so, said Lauren Sauer, director of operations at Johns Hopkins University's Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response.

"In the U.S., people are sticking pretty closely to that definition," Sauer said. But the increasing cases on other continents "are demonstrating we need to do a better job than just where the outbreak originated." On Thursday, the CDC updated its testing criteria on its website — a move that had been in the works for days, according to a federal official familiar with the change.

The CDC will continue to advise testing people who have traveled to certain outbreak areas and have fever and certain other symptoms. But now testing is also appropriate if such symptoms exist and flu and other respiratory illnesses have been ruled out and no source of exposure has been identified.

As part of that, CDC has expanded the list of countries that are red flags for testing to include not only China but Iran, Italy, South Korea and Japan.

Last month, the CDC said it had developed a test kit that could be sent to state and big city public health

labs, so they could broaden testing to more people. Early this month, the agency got authorization to begin distribution of the kit to government public health labs in the 50 states and some cities and counties. But most of the kits proved to be faulty, providing inconclusive results to test samples that should have tested positive. The problem was blamed on one of three reagents used in the testing. CDC said it was trying to manufacture new reagents, but gave no firm timetable for when that would occur.

Only about a half dozen state and local public health labs had fully functional kits as of early this week.

As weeks passed, the problem became more and more frustrating, said Scott Becker, the chief executive of the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

On Monday, Becker's organization sent a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, basically asking permission for state labs to develop their own tests. On Wednesday, FDA officials responded that labs would be allowed to rely on the two other reagents, meaning that as many as 40 state and local labs could be up and running with their tests in the next few days, Becker said. □

**pureocean**  
SEASIDE DINING

IT'S 6 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE...

JOIN US!  
HAPPY HOUR DAILY  
FROM 6-7 PM

SUNSETS | DRINK SPECIALS | FREE PARKING

Tantalize your taste buds with delicious  
NEW bar bites starting at just \$8 and the  
perfect wine, cocktail or beer!

Located at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort  
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 75, Palm Beach

For more information, call 586-6066 ext. 7002

**DIVI ARUBA PHOENIX**  
BEACH RESORT - ARUBA



ARUBA'S MOST REWARDING CASINO EXPERIENCE

**\$1 MILLION CASH GIVEAWAY 2020**

**1 COMPLIMENTARY TICKET**

WITH YOUR DINNER PURCHASE AT CASA NONNA NEW YORK OR BLT STEAK  
OR  
RECEIVE ONE (1) RAFFLE TICKET FOR EVERY 80 POINTS ON  
SLOT MACHINES/\$40 THEORETICAL WIN ON TABLE GAMES.

**CASA NONNA**  
NEW YORK, NY

**THE CASINO**  
AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, ARUBA

**BLT STEAK**

## Feds cite new evidence against former Mexico security chief

By JIM MUSTIAN

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New evidence against Mexico's former top security official has been uncovered since he was charged with taking tens of millions of dollars in bribes to protect Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's notorious Sinaloa cartel, federal prosecutors said Thursday. "The strength of the government's case has only increased" since a grand jury indicted Genaro Garcia Luna last year on charges he conspired to traffic cocaine and made false statements, prosecutors wrote in court filings. Prosecutors wrote they have additional witnesses that will testify Garcia Luna "agreed to assist the Sinaloa Cartel in exchange for millions of dollars in bribes." The testimony is corroborated, the government said, by newly discovered financial records that show Garcia Luna had been living off those bribes since

moving to the United States with his family several years ago.

Garcia Luna denies the charges and says he intends to fight them at his New York City trial. His defense attorney, Cesar de Castro, has said the case is built upon the discredited — and self-serving — accounts of drug traffickers. The new details came as prosecutors asked a federal magistrate in Brooklyn to reject Garcia Luna's request to be released on \$1 million bond while awaiting trial.

De Castro argued it would be "nearly impossible" for Garcia Luna to flee the United States, saying he also is under investigation in Mexico and would be arrested upon entering that country. Garcia Luna has surrendered his passport, he added.

"The government comes in and says he's a flight risk because he's Mexican and

has access to corrupt Mexican officials," de Castro said. "He is not a flight risk." Prosecutors countered that Garcia Luna has "every incentive" to flee prosecution, saying he faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years behind bars on each of three conspiracy counts. "This incentive is only further amplified by the strength of the government's evidence in this case," they wrote.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert M. Levy did not rule out the possibility of Garcia Luna being released on bond, but said he wants to know more about the sureties who would be on the hook financially should he abscond before trial.

Garcia Luna is accused of accepting tens of millions of dollars in bribes — often stuffed in briefcases full of cash — to shield the Sinaloa cartel from law enforcement.

Prosecutors allege that Garcia Luna amassed a



In this Jan. 21, 2020 file photo, Cesar De Castro, center, attorney for Genaro Garcia Luna, Mexico's former top security official, is surrounded by reporters as he leaves Federal court in Brooklyn, in New York.

Associated Press

fortune allowing Guzman's narco-trafficking syndicate to operate with impunity in Mexico. Before convicting Guzman last year, jurors in his New York trial heard former cartel member Jesus Zambada testify that he personally made at least \$6 million in hidden payments to Garcia Luna, on behalf of his older brother, cartel boss Ismael "El Mayo" Zam-

bada.

Guzman was sentenced to life in prison last year after a jury convicted him in a massive drug conspiracy involving murder and mayhem.

The cartel shipped multi-ton drug loads to New York and other American cities, including the federal district covering Brooklyn and Queens, prosecutors say. □



# Labor union unveils \$150M campaign to help defeat Trump

By STEVE PEOPLES

AP National Political Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — One of the nation's largest labor unions is unveiling plans to invest \$150 million in a nationwide campaign to help defeat President Donald Trump, a sweeping effort focused on eight battleground states and voters of color who typically don't vote.

The investment marks the largest voter engagement and turnout operation in the history of the Service Employees International Union, which claims nearly 2 million members. The scope of the campaign, which quietly launched last month and will run through November's general election, reflects the urgency of what union president Mary Kay Henry calls "a make-or-break" moment for working people in America under Trump's leadership.

"He's systematically unwinding and attacking unions. Federal workers rights have been totally eviscerated under his watch," Henry said in an interview. "We are on fire about the rules



President Donald Trump with members of the president's coronavirus task force speaks during a news conference at the Brady press briefing room of the White House, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Washington.

being rigged against us and needing to elect people that are going to stand with workers."

The union's campaign will span 40 states and target 6 million voters focused largely in Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin, ac-

cording to details of the plan shared with The Associated Press. The union and its local members will pay particular attention to two key urban battlegrounds they believe will play a defining role in the 2020 general election: Detroit and Milwaukee. There may be some television advertising,

but the investment will focus primarily on direct contact and online advertising targeting minority men and women who typically don't vote.

Few groups of voters will be more important in the 2020 general election. Trump won the presidency four years ago largely because of his popularity with working-class whites and a drop-off in turnout from minority voters.

The union's political director, Maria Peralta, noted that Trump's campaign has been working effectively in recent months to win over some minority voters, particularly men, who have traditionally voted Democratic.

"He's going after our communities in ways that are pervasive. We're deeply aware of that," Peralta said. "They're talking about the strength of the economy."

The Service Employees International Union, like the Democratic Party and its allies across the nation, faces significant headwinds in its fight to deny Trump a second term. Voters who may dislike his overall job performance are generally pleased with his leadership on the economy, and unemployment for black Americans has hit record lows in recent months.

At the same time, Trump's

campaign is far ahead of where it was four years ago, when it had little national organization.

On Wednesday, the Trump campaign announced plans to open 15 "Black Voices for Trump Community Centers" in battleground states and major cities, including Michigan and Wisconsin. The offices will feature a line of campaign swag adopting the "woke" label, and videos of prominent Trump surrogates like online stars Diamond and Silk explaining their support for the president and pamphlets outlining the president's record.

SEIU is the most diverse union in the United States. The union's membership features those who work in health care, food service, janitorial services and state and local government workers, among others. Half its members are people of color, and more than half make less than \$15 an hour.

The 2020 investment is designed to benefit Democrats up and down the ballot this fall, though defeating Trump stands as a primary goal.

That said, SEIU's political team has determined that a message simply attacking Trump isn't effective with its target audience, which includes a significant number of conservatives.

The union also determined that it's particularly effective to highlight Trump's work to weaken labor unions and conditions for working-class Americans.

After campaigning for a higher minimum wage, Trump has done little to raise the federal minimum wage, which has been stuck at \$7.25 for more than a decade. His administration has also taken steps to make it harder for new groups of workers to form unions. And labor officials have decried his appointments to the National Labor Relations Board and the Supreme Court, which dealt a huge blow to labor in 2018 by ruling that government workers no longer could be required to pay union fees. □

**HARBOUR HOUSE**  
Aruba

**The New Downtown Living**  
**Get your Own Ocean**  
**Front Condo**

**Over 70% Already Sold**

(+297) 594 6395  
Weststraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba  
sales@harbourhousearuba.com  
www.harbourhousearuba.com



## Neighbors: Brewery gunman built weapons from mail-order parts

By **GRETCHEN EHLKE and TODD RICHMOND**

**Associated Press**

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — A Milwaukee electrician who police identified Thursday as the man who fatally shot five co-workers at one of the nation's largest breweries enjoyed building guns, according to neighbors.

Authorities said 51-year-old Anthony Ferrill opened fire at the Molson Coors Brewing Co. complex on Wednesday, killing five male employees before turning his gun on himself. His motive remains a mystery; police say the case is still under investigation. They also haven't released details about how the shooting unfolded.

Milwaukee police Chief Alfonso Morales said the victims were all from the Milwaukee area. He identified them as Jesus Valle Jr., 33, of Milwaukee; Gennady Levshetz, 61, of Mequon; Trevor Wetselaar, 33, of Milwaukee; Dana Walk, 57, of Delafield; and Dale Hudson, 60, of Waukesha.

Ferrill's neighbors said he was a married father of two adult children and one younger daughter. They said he had worked at the brewery for about 15 years as an electrician.

His brother, Benjamin Ferrill, of The Colony, Texas, told The Associated Press: "It's a tragic loss to everybody. We're still trying to digest it." Erna Roenspies, who lived next door to Ferrill, de-

scribed him as a nice guy and helpful neighbor who enjoyed building guns with mail-order parts.

Several years ago Ferrill slipped off or fell off a ladder at the brewery and hurt his shoulder, forcing him to miss work.

He told Roenspies that "spies" from the brewery were lurking in the neighborhood, watching his activities to make sure he wasn't faking the injury. Once he pointed out the spies' car to her, she said. The spying "irritated" him, she said.

Still, Roenspies, 82, said Ferrill was a "gentleman" who checked up on her to make sure she was all right. "I considered him a son," she said. "He wasn't violent. He wasn't a drunk. He was a gentleman. I just can't believe it."

Another neighbor, Elizabeth LaPine, described Ferrill as a quiet person who walked his Doberman pinscher every day, and would sometimes throw a ball around for his dog in the street. She said she lived across the street from Ferrill for 11 years.

"It's heartbreaking," she said.

LaPine said Ferrill had several cars and always kept them shiny. She said that the last time she saw Ferrill was Sunday, and he had polished up his burgundy Chrysler, which she called his "Sunday car," and took it for a ride.

The shooting happened at an 82-acre (33-hectare) complex that includes a mix of corporate offices and brewing facilities and employs more than 1,000 people. It's widely known in the Milwaukee area as "Miller Valley," a reference to the Miller Brewing Co. that is now part of Molson Coors.

A massive red Miller sign that towers over the complex is a well-known symbol in a city where beer and brewing are intertwined with local history. The complex features a 160-year-old brewery, a packaging center that fills thousands of cans and bottles every minute and a distribution



The Molson Coors facility is seen Thursday Feb. 27, 2020, in Milwaukee.

**Associated Press**

center the size of five football fields.

Brewery Workers Local 9 of the United Auto Workers, which represents about 400 workers at the complex, issued a statement

Thursday calling the shooting a "senseless tragedy" and alerting members that grief counselors would be available at their union hall in West Allis, a Milwaukee suburb. □



### PLAY FOR FREE. GET REWARDED.

Download the **WindCreekCasino.com** app today. Play for FREE to get amazing rewards like FREE Play, dining credits, and hotel stays, available only at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. Register with event code **!RATODAY** to receive



Redeemable at Wind Creek Crystal Casino.

\*Limit one prize per registered account. Offer expires 12/31/2019. Email verification is required to complete registration. May be redeemed for either FREE Slot Play or FREE Match Play at tables.



**WIND CREEK®**  
CASINOS • ARUBA

**FIND YOUR  
WINNING MOMENT.®**

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino • WindCreekAruba.com  
©2019 Wind Creek Hospitality. See PLAYER SERVICES for details.

**H&H**

FINE WINES AND SPIRITS  
SPECIALTY STORE

PONTON 75A  
ORANJESTAD, ARUBA  
+297 588 7676

BUSINESS HOURS:  
WEDNESDAY to SATURDAY  
10AM - 6PM



WWW.HHFINEWINESANDSPIRITS.COM





# AP-NORC poll: Election security, integrity worry Americans

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**  
and **HANNAH FINGERHUT**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Americans have widespread concerns about the security and integrity of elections, with few saying they have high confidence that votes in the 2020 presidential election will be counted accurately.

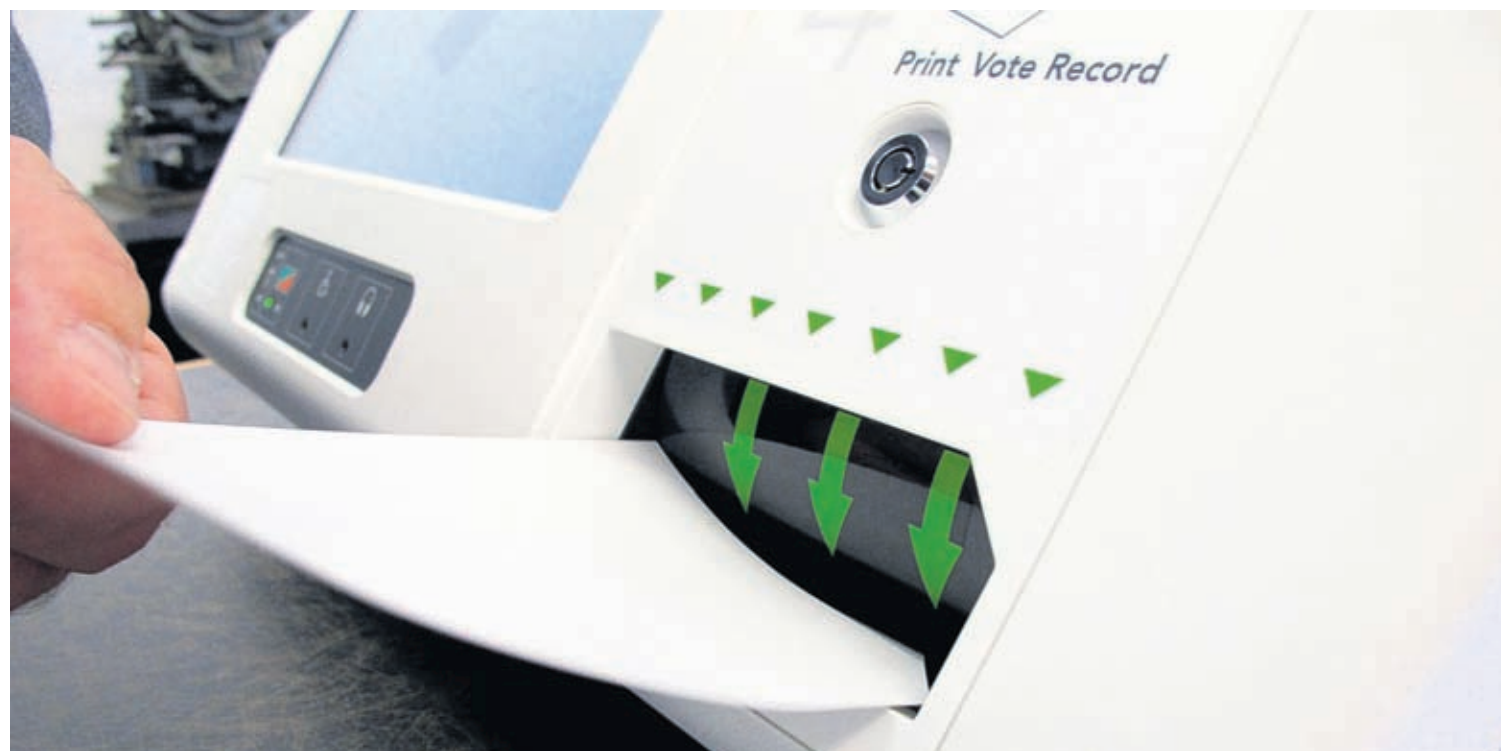
A poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds skepticism about the democratic process in the United States. While a third of Americans say they have high confidence in an accurate count, roughly another third are only moderately confident and a remaining third say they have little confidence.

"What's to prevent old Vlad Putin from interfering in the election? I don't know," says Reid Gibson, an independent voter in Missouri, referring to the Russian president, who U.S. intelligence agencies say interfered in the 2016 election with a sophisticated operation to sow division and help elect Donald Trump, a Republican.

FBI Director Christopher Wray told Congress this month that Russia is still engaged in "information warfare" heading into the 2020 election but that law enforcement has not seen efforts to target infrastructure like voting machines.

Still, U.S. officials say one of Russia's goals is to sow doubt about the integrity of U.S. elections, and the poll suggests that even if Russia isn't targeting voting infrastructure it may be achieving that goal because of the lack of voter confidence following from the 2016 election.

Gibson, who says he leans Democratic, is pessimistic about the state of U.S. politics and has little confidence that votes in the 2020 presidential election will be counted accurately. He says he's been concerned about the way elections are conducted since 2000, when voter problems in Florida delayed resolution of the presidential election and a Supreme Court deci-



In this Aug. 16, 2019, file photo, a man feeds a ballot card into a digital voting machine during a demonstration in Raleigh, N.C.

**Associated Press**

sion to stop a ballot recount ultimately put George W. Bush, a Republican, in office. In general, Americans have mixed feelings about the way the country's political leaders are chosen, with about as many saying they are optimistic as saying they are pessimistic.

There also are widespread fears about security vulnerabilities as well as voter suppression and voter fraud. About half of Americans say they are highly concerned that the country's voting systems might be vulnerable to hackers, and about that many also are strongly concerned about foreign governments interfering by tampering with election results or influencing American attitudes.

But concerns vary significantly by partisanship, with Democrats more likely than Republicans to express worries about the security of elections. About 6 in 10 Democrats say they are very or extremely concerned that voting systems might be vulnerable to hackers. Roughly two-thirds also are highly concerned that foreign governments will interfere in 2020 by tampering with results or influencing what Americans think about political candidates.

By contrast, fewer than half of Republicans express significant concern about

hackers, and just about a quarter are highly concerned about any form of foreign interference.

U.S. intelligence agencies and special counsel Robert Mueller found that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election. Mueller charged 13 Russians in a covert social media campaign that prosecutors said was aimed at dividing public opinion on hot-button social issues as well as proping up Trump while denigrating Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic nominee. The government has said that Russian agents also searched for vulnerabilities within election systems in all 50 states during the 2016 election cycle, though there is no evidence that votes were changed.

Trump has often pushed back on the findings by his own intelligence agencies, saying frequently that investigations into interference were a "hoax."

Voter fraud and voter suppression also elicit a wide partisan divide. Nearly 7 in 10 Republicans show concerns about voter fraud, saying people voting who are not eligible is a major problem in U.S. elections. That compares with about a quarter of Democrats.

Meanwhile, Democrats are concerned about voter suppression. Almost two-thirds say it is a major prob-

lem that people who are eligible are not allowed to vote, while only about a third of Republicans say the same. The opposing views come as Republicans in some states have implemented laws requiring voters to show identification, arguing that it will combat voter fraud. Democrats have fought many of those laws, saying they disenfranchise some voters.

With their candidate sitting in the Oval Office, Republicans are about twice as likely as Democrats to say they are optimistic about the way political leaders are chosen. Republicans also are more likely than Democrats to be strongly confident that votes will be counted accurately.

"I think it's about as fair as it could be," says Richard Meritt, 53, a Republican from Maine who supports Trump. "If someone was trying to hack into a voting system, the United States would be on top of that before you and I even knew it."

Views on election integrity and security also divide along racial lines. Roughly two-thirds of black Americans say they have little confidence that votes in 2020 will be counted accurately, compared with fewer than 4 in 10 white Americans or Hispanics saying the same. Wide shares

of black Americans, more so than white Americans or Hispanics, are concerned about hackers and foreign interference.

Robert King, a 70-year-old African American man from Michigan, says he might not even vote this year "because of the tampering and all of this other stuff going on." He says he's concerned that his vote might not even be counted.

Nearly 8 in 10 black Americans also say it's a major problem that people who are eligible are not allowed to vote.

Richard Hasen, author of the book "Election Melt-down: Dirty Tricks, Distrust, and the Threat to American Democracy," says voter identification laws have led voters in both major political parties to believe that the other side is cheating. "There is increasingly incendiary rhetoric" on the voter fraud issue, he says.

Hasen says he believes many Americans' concerns about the process come after they tune into major news events, such as election problems in the recent Iowa caucuses or Mueller's investigation into Russian interference.

"I think there are threats to our system," Hasen says, "but I think the question of voter confidence is separate from the reality." □





## Sunset Cruise

Includes

- 2 Hour sailing trip
- Tasty hors d'oeuvres
- Professional & fun-loving crew
- Unlimited open bar
- Amazing Caribbean sunset
- Panoramic view of beaches

US\$ **59.00**

BOOK  
ONLINE

[www.pelican-aruba.com](http://www.pelican-aruba.com)

OR CALL DIRECT  
(+297) 587-2307

PRESENT THIS AD AND RECEIVE \$10 OFF PER COUPLE

Pelican Adventures

## Latest Baltimore scandal ends with former mayor's sentencing

By REGINA GARCIA CANO  
Associated Press

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — Yet another embarrassing chapter in Baltimore's extremely troubled history ended Thursday when the city's former mayor was sentenced to federal prison for fraudulently selling her self-published children's books to nonprofit organizations to promote her political career.

Catherine Pugh accepted "full responsibility" for her actions and apologized through tears during the roughly 10 minutes she spoke in federal court in Baltimore before she was sentenced. The veteran Democratic politician said that "no one is more disappointed than me" and added that she did not want to bring "any more shame" to the city.

"I think the first thing I should do is apologize to the citizens of Baltimore who put their faith and trust in me as their mayor, and to all the people who put their faith and trust in me as state senator and as delegate," Pugh said outside the courthouse after being sentenced.

The scandal shook Maryland's largest city, which for years has struggled with grinding poverty, political mismanagement, record crime rates and police abuses that led to massive riots. And it made a mockery of Pugh's inaugural promise to restore trust in Baltimore's leaders.

Pugh, who turns 70 next week, was elected mayor in 2016 and resigned under pressure in May as authorities investigated bulk sales of her "Healthy Holly" paperbacks, which netted her hundreds of thousands

of dollars. Federal authorities accused her of double selling the books, keeping many for self-promotion purposes and failing to deliver them to institutions they were purchased for, including the Baltimore City Public Schools. Pugh used the proceeds to fund straw donations to her mayoral campaign and buy a new house.

Pugh was also sentenced Thursday to serve three years of supervised release after getting out of prison. She was ordered to pay more than \$411,000 in restitution and to forfeit more than \$669,000 to the government.

The disgraced former mayor pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy and tax evasion charges in November. She will be notified by April 13 when she must surrender and begin her sentence. "She had no qualms to use any means necessary to win the mayoral election," Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin Clarke said during the sentencing hearing.

Prosecutors had asked U.S. District Judge Deborah K. Chasanow to sentence the former mayor to nearly five years in prison, while her attorneys suggested a term of one year and a day. Prior to the hearing, a visibly stressed Pugh teared up when she turned around in her seat and saw friends and others sitting in the packed courtroom. Her attorney, Steven Silverman, handed her a box of tissues and briefly rubbed her back.

Dozens of people submitted letters to Chasanow pleading for leniency, including Kweisi Mfume, the former NAACP leader and Democratic nominee for

Maryland's 7th Congressional District. Five people spoke in support of Pugh during the hearing, including her former high school teacher. But Chasanow said she found it ironic that Pugh's supporters stressed her commitment to public service because "it was precisely that reputation for good work that enabled her to commit those offenses."

"I have yet frankly to hear any explanation that makes sense," Chasanow said. "This was not a tiny mistake, lapse of judgment. This became a very large fraud. The nature and circumstances of this offense clearly I think are extremely, extremely serious." Baltimore City Council President Brandon M. Scott called the sentencing "a somber moment for Baltimore," saying in a written statement that Pugh's acts "seriously undermined the public's trust in our local government."

"This moment reminds us that, as elected officials, we have one job: to serve the people, period," Scott said.

Pugh, helped by longtime aide Gary Brown Jr., carefully carried out the "Healthy Holly" scheme over more than seven years, starting when she was a Maryland state senator and into her tenure as Baltimore's mayor. Brown and another Pugh associate, Roslyn Wedington, await sentencing after pleading guilty to conspiracy and tax fraud.

A detailed accounting of the sales presented by prosecutors in their sentencing memorandum showed that organizations paid Pugh \$859,960 for orders of more than



Former Baltimore mayor Catherine Pugh, second from left, and her attorney Steven Silverman, left, leave a sentencing hearing at U.S. District Court in Baltimore on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

132,100 copies. But only about 73,200 copies were printed. Prosecutors said Pugh's personal inventory of books never exceeded 8,216 copies, but she resold them repeatedly through the elaborate scheme. The University of Maryland Medical System — one of

the state's largest employers — was Pugh's biggest book customer. The system is slated to get \$400,000 of the restitution Pugh was ordered to pay. Another book buyer, the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund, is expected to get about \$11,000. □

**Farmers Market**  
**March 1st 10:00-2:00 pm**

Enjoy locally made, grown, designed, unique art and delicious local food!

At the OSTRICH FARM



# Dominican Republic turns back cruise ship amid virus fears

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** —

A cruise ship heading to the Dominican Republic to disembark hundreds of passengers after a 14-day tour was turned away on Thursday because officials feared eight of those aboard showed potential symptoms of the COVID-19 virus, officials announced.

A joint statement by the Public Health Ministry and Port Authority said the captain of the Braemar reported four Filipinos, two British citizens and two U.S. citizens were under medical observation for symptoms such as fever, coughing, or breathing difficulty.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines said in an emailed statement that it had reported "a small number of influenza-like cases on board. Our medical team has now advised that they are all feeling better. No guests or crew are, or have been, displaying symptoms that are considered to be consistent with those of Coronavirus." Officials said the ship was carrying 1,128 passengers and 384 crew members. The cruise line said it was "awaiting advice on the next steps" and "liaising with a number of airlines to secure onward travel for guests."

"It is our opinion that this is an overreaction by the Do-



This June 3, 2017 file photo shows the upper deck pool area of the MSC Meraviglia cruise ship docked in Le Havre harbour, Normandy, France. The cruise ship was turned away in Feb.

Associated Press

minican Republic," Fred. Olsen said in a written statement.

The cruise line's website shows the ship had been due to pick up another load of passengers and set off on a new cruise Thursday night.

Public Health Minister Rafael Sánchez Cárdenas said the ship already had been barred by another port, which he did not specify.

Meanwhile, passengers on another vessel at the Mexican island of Cozumel faced yet another day in which they weren't allowed

to get off the ship, after they had been previously turned away from two ports.

The MSC Meraviglia, turned away by two nations due to fears of the virus outbreak, docked at Cozumel on Thursday and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said passengers would be allowed to disembark.

López Obrador said Mexico had to act with "humanity" after the ship was refused entry at ports in Grand Cayman and Jamaica.

But Alejandra Aguirre, the health secretary of the

coastal state of Quintana Roo, said two people had been detected with acute respiratory infections not believed to be the new coronavirus and that other passengers wouldn't be allowed off until tests on those two came back later Thursday.

The two were identified as a 27-year-old male crew member from the Philippines and a 30-year-old female passenger from France. MSC said in a statement that the two passengers were now symptom-free and the ship would re-

main in Cozumel. Assuming clearance to disembark is given, passengers would be free to tour Cozumel through the end of Friday. The cruise line had expressed frustration with the rejections, which came after it reported the crew member was sick with common seasonal flu.

"The ship is being allowed to dock and the passengers, those who are aboard the cruise ship, can disembark," López Obrador said, adding that health inspections will be carried out.

"We cannot act with discrimination," he said. "Imagine if a ship arrived and it wasn't even allowed to dock, and they were told, 'Keep going on your way, see where you can dock.' That is inhuman."

He added "we cannot close our ports, nor can we close our airports."

"Imagine the desperation and everything it implies, almost 5,000 people on a ship and they cannot get off," he said. "Why such backward attitudes?"

The case of the Meraviglia illustrated the crisis of nerves over the COVID-19 virus. Mexico has no confirmed cases and MSC Cruises said the crew member had only common seasonal flu, had been placed in isolation and had "nearly recovered." □

## UN rights chief regrets Sri Lanka withdrawal from resolution

By **KRISHAN FRANCIS**

Associated Press

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)** —

The United Nations' human rights chief expressed regret Thursday over the Sri Lankan government's decision to withdraw its co-sponsorship of a 2015 resolution backing an investigation into alleged human rights violations during the country's civil war.

Michelle Bachelet told the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva that the decision risks setting back efforts for postwar reconciliation.

"The fundamental problem remains that Sri Lanka

has still not addressed impunity for past violations, nor undertaken the security sector reforms needed to address their drivers and enablers," Bachelet said. She said systemic problems with the criminal justice system remain an impediment to real justice.

Sri Lanka co-sponsored a resolution in 2015 along with 11 other countries, including the United States, Britain, Australia and Germany, calling for an investigation into the alleged rights violations by both government forces and the now-defeated ethnic Tamil rebels in the island's civil war, which ended in



In this Dec. 9, 2019 file photo, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet speaks at the COP25 Climate summit in Madrid, Spain.

Associated Press

2009.

The resolution also called for providing answers on the fate of thousands who

reportedly went missing in the war and obtaining the support of international prosecutors and judges in

trials against alleged perpetrators.

The council has since given Sri Lanka two two-year extensions to implement the resolution.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena on Wednesday announced the country's formal withdrawal from the resolution. "Constitutionally, the resolution seeks to cast upon Sri Lanka obligations that cannot be carried out within its constitutional framework and it infringes the sovereignty of the people of Sri Lanka and violates the basic structure of the constitution," Gunawardena said. □



# Plácido Domingo revises apology, as Spain drops more shows

By JOCELYN GECKER and ARITZ PARRA

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Opera star Plácido Domingo amended his apology to the multiple women who have accused him of sexual misconduct, adding several caveats Thursday to a statement two days earlier in which he said he took "full responsibility" for his actions.

In a statement on his Facebook page, posted as several European concert halls moved to cancel his appearances, the legendary tenor said he wanted "to correct the false impression generated by my apology."

"My apology was sincere and heartfelt, to any colleague who I have made to feel uncomfortable, or hurt in any manner, by anything I have said or done," he wrote. "But I know what I have not done, and I'll deny it again. I have never behaved aggressively toward anyone, and I have never done anything to obstruct or hurt anyone's career."

In his Tuesday statement, Domingo had said: "I respect that these women finally felt comfortable enough to speak out, and I want them to know that I am truly sorry for the hurt that I caused them. I accept full responsibility for my actions, and I have grown from this experience."

Domingo's spokeswoman, Nancy Seltzer, offered no immediate comment when asked how to reconcile the dual statements.

The star's initial statement came in response to the findings of an investigation by the U.S. union representing opera performers, which found the star had behaved inappropriately over the course of two decades when he held senior management positions at Washington National Opera and Los Angeles Opera.

His words set off a backlash in Spain, which became the first country in Europe to cancel on the megastar since the sexual harassment allegations surfaced last year in two stories by The Associated Press.

On Thursday, Madrid's main opera house, Teatro Real, said it had scheduled a meeting to decide what to do about Domingo's five upcoming appearances in May, but that the singer then withdrew from the performances. The company added that it "reaffirms its policy of zero tolerance of harassment and abuse of any kind, and its permanent solidarity with the victims."

The announcement came as other Spanish public institutions and theaters severed ties with the 79-year-old singer, a native son who has long been a source of pride for many in the country.

Many commentators, politicians and fellow artists in Spain had defended Domingo, as did concert halls across Europe, even as U.S. companies swiftly moved to cancel performances and sever ties with the singer in the wake of the harassment allegations.

The first to take action in Spain was the government itself. On Wednesday, the Spanish Culture Ministry



In this Aug. 28, 2019 file photo, opera star Plácido Domingo salutes spectators at the end of a concert in Szeged, Hungary. Associated Press

said it was calling off two mid-May performances by Domingo at Madrid's Teatro de la Zarzuela light opera house. The ministry said that "given the seriousness of the deeds," it was acting "in solidarity with women affected" to take a stand against sexual harassment.

More cancellations followed Thursday. A musical association in the Spanish city of Úbeda said it was canceling Domingo's May 3 performance in light of the week's developments,

and the Palau de les Arts, a publicly funded, state-of-the-art opera house in the eastern Spanish city of Valencia, said that, "in line with the values of the institution," it would strip the tenor's name from its popular training program for opera singers. It also ruled out any future contracts with Domingo.

"The institution considers that any conduct against the integrity of women, whether moral, sexual ... is intolerable," a statement said. □



France's former Prime Minister Francois Fillon, center, and his wife Penelope, leave the Paris courthouse, in Paris, Monday, Feb. 24, 2020.

Associated Press

## Ex-French prime minister denies wrongdoing in fraud trial

By N. VAUX-MONTAGNY and S. CORBET

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Former French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said Thursday that he wants to "make the truth be known" at his fraud trial in Paris. Fillon is facing charges after he used public funds to pay his wife and children for work they allegedly never performed. Fillon, 65, has denied wrongdoing.

In his first statement to the court, Fillon said he had already been sentenced by the "media court."

"The goal was clear: To prevent me from running in normal conditions in the presidential election," Fillon said. "Damages are irreparable."

French media broke the scandal in January 2017, just three months before a presidential election in which Fillon was considered the front-runner. □

Join us at **RED FISH**

Quality Seafood Restaurant

Orange Plaza - Italiestraat 50  
Tel: 280-6666 - [www.redfisharuba.com](http://www.redfisharuba.com)  
Tuesday to Sunday - 11:30am to 10:00pm



# Malaysia's Mahathir says Parliament will pick new PM

By EILEEN NG

Associated Press

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)** — Malaysian interim leader Mahathir Mohamad said Thursday that Parliament will pick a new prime minister next week following the collapse of the ruling alliance, and that snap elections will be called if the vote ends in an impasse. But his former alliance led by rival Anwar Ibrahim rejected the announcement, saying that only the king has the power to appoint the prime minister under the constitution.

Mahathir, who met the king earlier Thursday, said the monarch couldn't find a candidate with a clear majority to lead the nation after consulting all 222 lawmakers over the last two days. As a result, the king decided to have the lower house of Parliament vote on a new leader on Monday, he said. "If the lower house fails to find a person with the majority, then we will have to go for a snap election," he told a news conference. A failed bid by Mahathir's supporters to form a new government without his designated successor, Anwar, and Mahathir's shock resignation on Monday broke apart the ruling alliance less than two years after it defeated a corruption-tainted coalition that had led the country for 61 years. Both Mahathir and Anwar are now vying for the premiership, renewing a political feud that stretches back more than two decades. In a

statement late Thursday, the three remaining parties in Anwar's alliance said Mahathir had jumped the gun in making the announcement because the palace hadn't issued any official statement. They said it also came ahead of a meeting of the Conference of Rulers to discuss the matter.

The Conference of Rulers is composed of nine ethnic Malay hereditary state rulers who take turns being Malaysia's king for five-year terms under a unique rotating monarchy system. While the king's role is largely ceremonial, the monarch is highly regarded by the country's Malay majority as the guardian of Islam and Malay tradition.

The alliance said Mahathir's move was akin to challenging the king's power to appoint the prime minister and urged all sides to respect Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah's authority.

Anwar was Mahathir's deputy in the 1990s during Mahathir's first stint as prime minister, but he was sacked following a power struggle and later jailed on sodomy and corruption charges that he said were trumped up. Anwar led a reform movement that helped build a fledgling opposition but was jailed a second time for sodomy in 2014 in what he said was aimed at killing his political career.

Mahathir, who retired in 2003 after 22 years in power, made a comeback in 2016, spurred by anger over a massive graft scandal involving a state investment



Malaysian interim leader Mahathir Mohamad speaks during a press conference at his office in Putrajaya, Malaysia, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

fund. Mahathir and Anwar reconciled and forged an alliance that won the 2018 election, ushering in the first change of government since independence from Britain in 1957.

But their relationship remained uneasy as Mahathir refused to set a time frame to hand over power to Anwar under their election pact. Mahathir, the world's oldest leader at 94, said Wednesday he wanted to form a nonpartisan government if chosen as prime minister for a third time. But his unity government plan was rejected by Anwar's camp and other opposition parties, which said it would only create a "Mahathir government" that was not accountable to the people and was unsustainable.

Lawmakers from Anwar's alliance nominated Anwar instead as prime minister when meeting the king after Mahathir rejected their offer to restore their former government. Anwar's camp controls 41% of parliamentary seats, 20 seats short of a simple majority. Bersatu abandoned the governing alliance four days ago in a bid to form a new government with several opposition parties. But it flopped after Mahathir quit in protest of the plan to work with the United Malays National Organization, the party of disgraced ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak who is on trial on corruption charges, that he ousted in the 2018 polls.

Mahathir said he still cannot accept UMNO but will

embrace UMNO members who leave the party. He said he still needs to discuss this with Bersatu leaders, who were willing to accept UMNO en bloc. Bersatu already joined hands with UMNO to take control of a southern state earlier Thursday. Mahathir said he will accept the outcome of Monday's vote and that the new leader can choose anyone he likes as his Cabinet members, alluding back to the unity government plan he proposed.

The political drama that unfolded over the weekend saw 37 lawmakers, led by Bersatu, ditching the ruling alliance, depriving it of majority support. The king dissolved the Cabinet but reappointed Mahathir as interim leader. □

## Thai police find bodies of suspected smugglers in reservoir

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Police in northern Thailand said the bodies of seven people believed to be drug smugglers were found Thursday in a reservoir in an area under military control. Police in Chiang Rai province's Mae Sai district said the seven are thought to have been involved in an armed clash with soldiers on Monday. The area is notorious as a route for drugs smuggled

from neighboring Myanmar, and it is not unusual for security forces to encounter smugglers there, most commonly transporting methamphetamine tablets. Thailand is both a market and a transit point for the drug.

Police said 21 sacks filled with methamphetamine tablets and "ice," a crystallized form of the stimulant, were discovered on the bank of the reservoir

more than a kilometer (half a mile) from where Monday's shootout occurred. The drugs were estimated to be worth 2 million baht (\$63,000).

Police speculated that the bodies may have been of people who drowned while attempting to swim across the reservoir to escape the soldiers.

Police investigating the case are awaiting the results of autopsies on the

bodies. The U.N. anti-drug agency said last year that production of methamphetamine is skyrocketing in Southeast Asia, with prices dropping and usage expanding. Even as seizures of the drug known as speed, ice and "ya ba" in its various forms reached a record high last year, street prices have dropped, indicating increased availability, said the report by the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The report said organized crime groups in the region have stepped up their involvement in making and trafficking methamphetamine and other drugs in the Golden Triangle, the region where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet that has historically been a major source of opium and heroin. □



## Ex-housekeeper sues Israeli PM's wife over abusive behavior

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — A former housekeeper at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's official residence is suing the leader's wife Sara for pain and suffering allegedly caused during her employment there, the housekeeper's attorney said Thursday.

Opheer Shimson says his client is demanding \$190,000 in damages for the abuse from Sara Netanyahu. He said the woman, an immigrant from France in her mid-50s and a mother of five who wished to keep her identity secret, worked at the residence for five months until last November, when she was injured from a fall caused by what he described as Sara Netanyahu's tyrannical demands. He said the woman, a staunch supporter of the prime minister, kept a diary detailing the verbal abuse she endured from his wife. "She adores the prime minister and saw her work at his home as a form of national service," Shimson told The Associated Press. "But

she's been traumatized by her experience. Everyone knew what was going on there, and no one can say otherwise."

Sara Netanyahu has been accused of abusive behavior toward her personal staff before. This, together with accusations of excessive spending and using public money on her own extravagant personal tastes, has earned her an image as the Israeli Imelda Marcos, the Philippines' former first lady who became infamous for her massive collection of designer shoes.

Last year, Sara Netanyahu was convicted of misusing state funds after she reached a plea bargain settling allegations that she overspent some \$100,000 of state money on lavish meals. She'd previously been indicted for graft, fraud and breach of trust. In 2016, a court ruled the prime minister's wife mistreated a housekeeper and awarded the man \$42,000 in damages. Several other employees have accused her of abuse, mis-

treatment and harassment. Another pending lawsuit alleges she forbade a former staffer to eat or drink on the job and required her to change her clothes dozens of times a day. The plaintiff, who is also seeking damages, says Sara Netanyahu also required her to wash her hands dozens of times a day and dry them with a towel separate from the one used by the Netanyahu family.

The Netanyahus have angrily rejected all the charges, calling them part of a media-orchestrated campaign against the family to oust them from power.

Israel heads to the polls next week for its third election in less than a year. Two weeks later, Benjamin Netanyahu goes on trial for charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust stemming from accusations he accepted lavish gifts from billionaire friends and promised to promote advantageous legislation for a major newspaper in exchange for favorable coverage.

"Enough, save me, I want



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, greets Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife Sara, left, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands at center, prior to their talks in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

to die, the problem is that I don't have any choice and everyone knows that," reads one of his client's entries, which was first published on Israel's Channel 12 news. "It's impossible to live every day with a psychopath. I'm dying to leave before it's too late."

In another entry, she said Sara Netanyahu screamed at her for forgetting to throw out the garbage, called her stupid and dirty and demanded she take a shower. The woman wrote

that Sara Netanyahu accused her of trying to cause friction with the prime minister.

"She said to me: 'What do you want? For me to be like you, divorced?'" she wrote. "Even the prime minister told her to stop. She was in a trance. In the afternoon she had a fit, lay down on the ground, screamed and screamed like a lunatic, and shook with rage. She rolled around on the floor, and said that all of that was because of me." □

## Lebanon begins 'historic' offshore oil drilling amid crisis

By ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

**Beirut (AP)** — Lebanon's president Thursday inaugurated the Mediterranean country's first offshore exploratory drilling for oil and gas, calling it a "historic day" for the cash-strapped country. Michel Aoun spoke aboard the drill ship Tungsten Explorer, which will be conducting the drilling operations of the first exploration well, located approximately 30 kilometers (18 miles) offshore from the capital Beirut.

"Today is a happy day for us and for all Lebanese, and we hope the dream we've all imagined is realized today. It is a historic day," he said. The ceremony at sea contrasted sharply with Lebanon's crippling financial and economic crisis, including a deepening liquidity crunch and soaring



In this photo released by Lebanon's official government photographer Dalati Nohra, Lebanese President Michel Aoun, foreground, and Lebanese Prime Minister Hassan Diab, background left, walk aboard the drilling ship Tungsten Explorer.

Associated Press

public debt. The limits have prompted protests against the financial institutions — including violent attacks on ATM machines and some bank branches. Lebanon has one of the highest debt to GDP ratios in the world, standing at about \$87 bil-

lion or more than 150% of the country's GDP. Teetering on economic and financial collapse, the Lebanese government is now considering whether to pay or default on its \$1.2 billion Eurobond debt, which matures next month. □



**WACKY WAHOOS**

PALM BEACH #33-A [WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM](http://WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM)

**STEAK. SEAFOOD. B.B.Q. & FUN!**

Ex-Hadicurari BBQ & Grill with the same owner's.  
We do our own daily fishing so we serve the freshest seafood on the Island.

**Very reasonable price, exciting menu and NO SERVICE CHARGE**

**Dinner from 5:30 - 10:00**  
Monday - Saturday



**FRESH CATCH & SEAFOOD**  
We are located close to the High-rise hotel's at walking distance.  
RESERVATION SUGGESTED

**TEL: 586-7333**





# Mexico president ties shootout dead to drug consumption

By **PETER ORSI**

**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** —

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador suggested Wednesday without offering evidence that most of those who die in Mexico's cartel- and gang-fueled firefights are high on drugs or intoxicated, prompting criticism and questions about whether the claim was accurate.

Speaking to journalists in his morning news conference, López Obrador said rising drug consumption rates must be reversed if the country is to guarantee peace and security after years of rising, record-setting homicide statistics.

"Just so you have the number, 60% of those who lose their life each day, 60% of those killed in clashes, it is shown that they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, but primarily drugs," the president continued. "Because of that, these ruthless crimes that cause such sadness."

The comments revived a debate seen during the 2006-2012 presidency of Felipe Calderón, who first launched Mexico's militarized anti-drug offensive. Calderón used to say that the majority of those killed



**Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador waves during an event marking Army Day at the Zocalo, accompanied by first lady Beatriz Gutierrez Muller, in Mexico City, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

during the drug war were tied to cartels, also without offering evidence, but eventually backed off such rhetoric after criticism from activists and relatives of some victims.

A federal government official clarified later Wednesday that the figure came from López Obrador's closed-door morning meetings with his security Cabinet and is based on analyses of those killed in clashes

between criminal groups and/or with security forces. That suggests he was referring to presumed criminals and not murder victims more broadly speaking. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said documentation exists but is not publicly available. But critics questioned whether there was any scientific basis for such an

assertion. While it's true that sometimes cartel killers get high before doing their bloody business, they questioned whether it was fair to imply drug consumption is an underlying cause of gangland violence. And perhaps due to the ambiguity of López Obrador's words, many understood them to mean all homicides, leading to accusations of victim-blaming. Security analyst Alejandro

Hope wrote that usually drug consumption is used to characterize perpetrators of murders, not the dead, and that "there is zero evidence" for López Obrador's assertion.

María Elena Morera, president of the NGO Causa en Comun, called the president's comment "troubling" and said there is no data to back it up.

"So the president is confused, ill-informed or simply does it to reinforce his posture of revictimizing and not legalizing drugs," Morera said. López Obrador was asked at the news conference about possible legalization, for example the cultivation of opium poppies or the recreational use of marijuana, and suggested his administration is looking more at legalization for medicinal purposes.

The Supreme Court ruled in 2018 that prohibition of personal use, possession and private cultivation of cannabis was unconstitutional, though lawmakers have not codified decriminalization into law.

Data Civica, a stats-driven NGO working in human rights and citizen empowerment, also said it was concerned by López Obrador's assertion. □

## Grief grips Peruvian community one month after deadly fire

By **FRANKLIN BRICEÑO**

**Associated Press**

**LIMA, Peru (AP)** —

One month after a gas tanker leak triggered fires and explosions that killed 30 people in the Peruvian capital, traumatized survivors and relatives of victims are still waiting to know who was responsible. They include Paola Lizeta, whose 13-year-old son, Jean Francis Álvarez, ran back toward his house to try to rescue his dog and died a week later after suffering severe burns. The dog, Lester, survived.

"Sometimes he wants me to pick him up," Lizeta said of the dog. "I embrace him with all my strength." Some 14 people were also injured in the blaze that

swept through the Sector 6 neighborhood of the Villa El Salvador district in Lima on Jan. 23. While prosecutors say they are working hard to close their investigation, grief and disillusionment have overwhelmed the neighborhood.

"Nobody has been jailed. There's no justice," said 26-year-old Vanesa Meza, who lost her aunt and four nieces in the disaster. Four of Meza's nephews - the youngest is a baby - remain hospitalized with burns over half their bodies. Visible as a white cloud, liquefied gas leaked from a tanker after its pump hit a sharply angled speed bump at an intersection, according to a police report. Residents

rushed away from the cloud, but someone started a car and a spark ignited the gas, Lizeta said. Prosecutor Humberto Durán is investigating the tanker driver, the gas distribution company, Lima Mayor Jorge Muñoz, Villa El Salvador Mayor Kevin Iñigo and other officials. In addition, the tanker driver, 72-year-old Luis Guzmán, wasn't authorized to transport liquefied gas and had been fined five times for transporting dangerous cargo without observing safety protocols. On Jan. 23, Guzmán should have had a colleague with him, but was driving solo. His vehicle didn't have proper fenders or a system that would



**In this Jan. 23, 2020 file photo, a firefighter cools a roof with water after a gas tanker leak triggered a fires and explosions, killing 30 people in the Villa Maria shantytown of Lima, Peru.**

**Associated Press**

automatically prevent the gas from escaping into the air. Emergency services were slow to arrive at the scene to help victims and put out the flames. Firefighters admitted later that a fire engine was out of or-

der after a road accident. Wilder Félix, a water distributor, was passing through the area and pitched in with supplies from his truck to fight the fire consuming people, homes and vehicles. □



# LOCAL



## Every Wednesday: Dinner under the stars

**ORANJESTAD** - The only other living species you will encounter during your Dinner under the Stars at the Private Island of Renaissance are the island staff and a bunch of beautiful flamingos. Outside of that you will enjoy pure tropical delight and tranquility, just one private island away from Aruba. A 10-minute boat trip will take you to a place outside of the buzz. A breathe in, breathe out location where you are pampered with white sands, comfy sun beds, pink flamingos, tropical flora, smiling waiters and delicious culinary treats.

Imagine to surprise your love,

your family or friend with taking her or him on a boat trip instead of driving your car to a restaurant on the main island. Falling from one amazement into the other when arriving at the Renaissance Private Island's boat deck with romantic lightning and attending staff. Walking her or him to the beautiful beach will light up the spirits and the night has just begun.....

### Go & Find Out

"Every Wednesday we offer the Private Island Dinner with two menu's that rotate. Starting off with an amuse-bouche, followed by an appetizer, two

choices for the main course and a lovely dessert. Space is limited as we have only 50 seats", says Tineke Lenters, Manager of the Renaissance Private Island. "While the island is normally only reserved for Renaissance Resort guests, visitors and locals can also take this experience when booking a dinner or -for a day spend- a massage." If doing so, you can actually enjoy the island's assets to the fullest. The beach, the beach tennis court, the (air-conditioned) fitness, private cabanas, beverages and foods. It's all there. And even more, just go and find out. It will for sure be an experience. □



## Saying bye bye to Winnie and Skip for now



**PALM BEACH** — Our columnist Steve Francees takes amazing pictures to enchant you bi-weekly on Mondays with the colors and impressions of his art: photography. Now Steve made some close friends with Winnie and Skip and asked Aruba Today to send them his special message before they return to the United States where their home is.

"This amazing couple have been coming to Aruba for the last 33 years and is loved by many here in Aruba. Every time they come back to the island they are getting younger and probably you don't know but they are celebrating 33 years of marriage this year and sure we will have a big party. We will miss you two for the hugs and kisses but looking forward to see you two back in July,


Steve"

lgsmiths.com

**LGS**


**L.G. SMITH'S**  
STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

**SURRENDER TO YOUR EVERY CRAVING.**



As the centerpiece of Aruba's thriving downtown district, L.G. Smith's delivers an unsurpassed steakhouse experience, elevated by our passion, culinary chops and "attitude is everything" mantra.

**And join us every Friday for the only Kobe Steak on the island as our chef prepares succulent cuts of rare Kobe Steak paired with an exclusive wine list.**



The #1 Steakhouse in Aruba according to Trip Advisor.

Located in Oranjestad, next to Wind Creek Crystal Casino.

Open nightly for dinner. For reservations please call 523.6195.



## LEAP YEAR Dinner and Wine Pairing Experience at the Sunset Grill



**PALM BEACH — Patrons are invited Saturday, February 29, 6:30pm to leap back in time with a dinner featuring classic fare from the delectable repertory of the Hilton Caribbean Aruba Resort & Casino culinary brigade.**

The upcoming six-course, wine-paired meal summons leapsters to the second in the series of Sunset Grille wine dinners showcasing the steakhouse's elevated cuisine in collaboration with a top-tier lo-

cal wine supplier. The special wine pairing will be guided by Divino's star sommelier, Kiume Tjon-A-Tsien, the winner of the recent 2020 Sommelier of the Year competition. The menu for the evening was created by French & American-trained Executive Chef Matt Boland, and French born Katia Soujol, Executive Sous Chef, inspired by the first leap year of the decade. The evening will take off with a Sparkling Wine Reception at Mira Solo Lobby Bar at 6:30pm, then

guests will be escorted to their tables, with indoor seating available at 7pm.

On the menu: Fresh Grouper Ceviche, paired with Matua Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand; Escargot & Shrimp swimming in Garlic Butter, Herbs, with Focaccia, complemented by Beringer Regional Estates Chardonnay, Napa Valley, California; Gnocchi Mushroom butter, paired with Elouan Pinot Noir, Oregon; Lamb Chop on a bed of Couscous, Green Pep-

percorn sauce, with Elouan Pinot Noir, Oregon; Braised Beef Slider Chipotle Mayo, Gouda Cheese, Sweet Potato Fries, and Caribbean Slaw paired with Beringer Bros, Red Blend, Aged in Bourbon Barrels, California.

The traditional Apple Tart Tartin Crème Anglaise, with Ice Cream served for dessert will be matched with Madiki Breeze Cocktail Invented by the resort's very own master bartender Gaby, made with Tito's Vodka, Disaronno Amaretto, and splashes of Pineapple and Orange Juice.

The six-course Culinary Experience with Complimentary Wine Pairing is available at a great price.

Reservations & Questions: 526 6612 or email [HiltonConcierge@depalmtours.com](mailto:HiltonConcierge@depalmtours.com)

### **HILTON ARUBA CARIBBEAN RESORT & CASINO**

J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 81, Palm Beach, Aruba  
[HiltonAruba.com](http://HiltonAruba.com)  
[@HiltonAruba](https://www.instagram.com/HiltonAruba)  
[#HiltonAruba](https://www.facebook.com/HiltonAruba)

## By Aruba Birdlife Conservation: Beauty in Aruba: the love for our birds



**ORANJESTAD —** On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular. Among other things,

the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation.

The foundation publishes

the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a peek of the some pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

### **Impact**

The moment of impact induces a chain reaction of ripple effects throughout the wetlands.

Once again, the egret's strategy reaps results. An instant of Aruba's wetlands bird wildlife in survival mode. A Great Egret carrying out a success-



ful hunt at Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

### **Falcon's time**

Parents are very busy gathering food for the chicks. It's that time of the year; it's Kinikini time. A female American Kestrel during a hunt.

### **Carnival's Grand Parade**

Nature inspires the creativity of all carnival participants! Aruba enjoyed her Grand

Parade!  
A dancing Troupial in full costume; it's time to party!





**WIN \$10 UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY THE DAY YOU JOIN THE CLUB!**

# 50/30 Friday!

**We're giving away \$50 Free Slot Play  
to lucky slot and table game players every  
30 minutes from 7pm to midnight!**

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 4am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47  
583.5000 | [casinoalhambra.com](http://casinoalhambra.com)

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

## THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail  
& Dining Outlets, Salon & Spa  
Services, Souvenirs and more.

Subway | Juan Valdez Café  
Dunkin Donuts | Baskin-Robbins  
Fusion Piano & Wine Bar  
TOF Twist of Flavors | Aruba Aloe  
Bijoux Turner Boutique | R-Glass  
Curated Lab | Hungry Piranha  
The Lazy Lizard | The Market  
Shalom Body & Soul Spa

**Coming Soon:** The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood and  
Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

## Blue Line Walk/Run 2020: Walk or run with the police



**PALM BEACH** — For the first time students of the police school, class N4-2019 organize a sportive event named Aruba Blue Line Walk/Run 2020 taking place this Saturday, February 29th with starting point

the parking of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba. Join this healthy and cozy event and mingle with our locals.

The registration for this event begins from 5pm on until 5.30pm. There will

be a warm up Zumba session before the walk and run start at 6pm. The route goes from the parking of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba to Arashi beach and back. It is a beautiful course where you will have the ocean in



sight while walking or running. There will be water posts on the way which are provided by Community Footprints (The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba) and in the end some fresh fruits will be available. Of course there will also be door prizes to win. The organization would love participants to wear blue shirts and to take a water bottle

with them to fill at the water posts.

Tickets are 20 Florin and available at the police school at Watty Vos Boulevard in San Nicolas or you may call telephone +297 564-7523 or 566-6013. Tickets are also be delivered in case there is no opportunity to pick them up at the police school. □





## Longtime employees reach milestone events Playa Linda celebrates career achievements and well-deserved retirements



**ORANJESTAD --** The quality standards for which the Playa Linda Beach Resort is known are a result of the example set by long-time employees, including Florencia "Gloria" Koolman, Catharina "Rina" Angela, Lucio Piter and Cecilia Charles, who have served as role models while making ongoing contributions in ensuring resort members and guests always enjoy excellent vacations stays. Career accomplishments were recently recognized for these employees marking decades-long work anniversaries as well as transitions into well-deserved retirements.

After dedicating thirty years plus to the Playa Linda, Housekeepers Gloria and Rina are each head-

ing toward enjoyment of their retirement years. Gloria received her send-off after marking her three-decade-long career last year. She was a well-respected face at the resort, and had moved to a leadership position as a supervisor, and it was with a great deal of emotion that accompanied goodbyes from colleagues and staff.

Rina marked thirty years on February 19, 2020, and also looks back over a career filled with hard work but also of lifelong friendships and career accomplishments. She earned her supervisory position after going above and beyond, especially during the early years of the resort and in successfully dealing with



everyday challenges. She became a resource to her fellow housekeepers and also a favorite among guests.

Recent retiree Lucio Piter, who also marked a respectable amount of years, with a 16-year career with the Playa Linda as a night audi-

tor reliever in the Front Office, was also honored for his invaluable contributions. An example of his winning ways and appreciation for his talents resulted in being named an Employee of the Year in 2010.

Still going strong is Cecilia Charles, who hit her 30-

year anniversary in February of this year, but who has no plans, as of yet, to retire.

Cecilia was hired as housekeeper when Playa Linda was still in its first phase of construction. As part of a much smaller housekeeping team at the time, the work consisted of long hours, and she often stayed late to ensure lobby and rooms were sparkling clean. Although the work was never easy, she says she found great satisfaction at the Playa Linda, both at the start and into the current day, having formed lasting ties with her colleagues as well as with many of the return visitors and members of the resort. These ongoing relationships, as well as the family environment at the resort, keep her looking forward to coming to work each day.

Separate events were held to honor all of these exceptional employees, with Playa Linda Beach Resort executive staff expressing special thanks for their dedication as well as each one's individual talents that have contributed to Playa Linda's unique blend of outstanding hospitality. □



## Tonight at Bohemian restaurant: Enchanting ambience made by the harp

**PALM BEACH —** The harp is an instrument admired for its grandeur and beauty. It has a unique sound and is always eye-catching. This instrument will be played live by Yhosayra Rojas live at Bohemian Restaurant TONIGHT.



Rojas is a native from "Caguan" the birthplace of Venezuela folk music and she commenced playing the harp in the footsteps of her father Rafael Rojas, a well-known artist and part of Juan Vicente Torrealba's époque. It served her as an inspiration to in-

terpret the versions from the "Llano", a unique area near the Amazon basin with nature, flora and fauna. Bohemian Restaurant is a different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua

restaurants. This is about avant-garde from France, nonconformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. The beautiful garden of Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and the live harpist in an intimate, hip and offbeat ambience. Free Parking available at

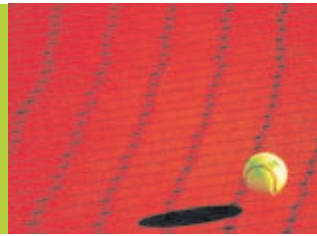


the parking lot in front of Barceló Resort. Make your reservations through their website:

<https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □



# SPORTS



## Virus threat to Olympics casts shadow over marathon trials

By CHARLES ODUM  
AP Sports Writer

**ATLANTA (AP)** — The nation's top distance runners carry a new concern into the U.S. Olympic Team Marathon Trials.

"The possibility that you make this team and then you don't have an Olympics to go to," Jacob Riley said.

The top three men's and women's finishers on Saturday will earn spots on the U.S. team.

Ultimately, their dreams of actually competing in the Olympics this summer may rest upon the new virus from China, which has spread to other parts of the world, including Japan.

The coronavirus was a hot topic as some of the runners gathered in Atlanta on Thursday.

"It's there but I think from my perspective what I have to do is just ignore it and go out and race," said Jared Ward, who finished third in the 2016 trials in Los Angeles and placed sixth in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Longtime International Olympic Committee member Dick Pound told The Associated Press on Tuesday there is a window of two to three months to decide if conditions are too dangerous to hold the Olympics in Tokyo.

Continued on Page 23

## HEAT CHECK

### Minnesota rallies late, shock Miami 129-126

**Miami Heat forward Bam Adebayo (13) is stripped of the ball by Minnesota Timberwolves forward Juancho Hernangomez during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Miami.**

Associated Press  
Page 20





# Lawmakers push for Curt Flood's enshrinement in Hall of Fame

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Curt Flood's widow has a simple explanation for why her late husband, who is revered by players for sacrificing his career to advocate for free agency, has not been enshrined in baseball's Hall of Fame.

"I think the holdup is that he got on a lot of people's nerves," Judy Pace Flood said.

Flood has some powerful advocates on his side.

Members of Congress sent a letter to the Hall of Fame on Thursday asking that Flood be elected in December by the next golden era committee. The recognition would coincide with the 50-year anniversary of Flood's defiant letter to baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn in which he wrote, "I do not feel that I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes."

"What Curt Flood did and championed is resonating throughout professional sports for the past 50 years," Rep. David Trone, a Maryland Democrat who is leading the push for Flood's enshrinement, said at a news conference.

Flood was 31 when he sent that letter on Dec. 24, 1969. He had spent most of the past decade as the starting center fielder for the St. Louis Cardinals. A three-time All-Star, Flood won seven consecutive Gold Gloves and helped lead the Cardinals to three Na-



**Rep. William Lacy Clay, D-Mo., left, and Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., right, stand as Judy Pace Flood speaks during a news conference as they call for the late Curt Flood to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, on Capitol Hill, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020 in Washington.**

**Associated Press**

tional League pennants and two World Series titles. "What a great ballplayer," said Sen. Roy Blunt, a Missouri Republican. "When the great Stan Musial was finishing up his career in right field, Curt Flood would play all of center and about half of right so that Stan the Man could still be on the team."

After the 1969 season, Flood asked the Cardinals for a pay raise. Instead, they traded him to the Philadelphia Phillies. Under baseball's reserve clause, players were fully under the control of their teams. Flood refused the trade

and, with the backing of players' union executive director Marvin Miller, filed a federal lawsuit in January 1970 challenging the reserve clause. The Supreme Court ruled against him in a 5-3 decision in 1972, but the justices agreed Flood's arguments had merit. They said they could not intervene because it was up to Congress to alter the antitrust exemption created in 1922 when the Supreme Court ruled baseball was not interstate commerce. The union kept fighting, and the reserve clause was struck down in December 1975 by arbitrator Peter

Seitz in a case involving pitchers Andy Messersmith and Dave McNally. The following July, owners and the union agreed to a labor contract that included free agency.

"I will tell people to this day: Curt did not lose that case," Pace Flood said.

Flood's efforts essentially ended his career. He only played in 13 more games in the majors after his letter to Kuhn. With 1,861 hits, a .293 batting average and his defensive prowess, Flood could have retired with Hall of Fame-worthy numbers had he spent several more seasons as a regular player.

Flood battled alcoholism before rebuilding his life with the help of Pace Flood, an actress ("Peyton Place," "Cotton Comes to Harlem") who broke down barriers for black women in Hollywood. The couple dated in the '60s and married in 1986. Flood died of throat cancer in 1997. He was 59. The significance of his contributions is not lost on today's players. Pitcher Gerrit Cole mentioned Flood when he signed his \$324 million contract with the New York Yankees in December.

"It's so important that players know the other sacrifices that players made in order to keep the integrity of the game where it is," Cole said.

Players' unions from the NFL, NHL, NBA and MLS had representatives at Thursday's news conference, and 102 members of Congress signed the letter to the Hall of Fame. Miller was elected to the Hall last year by the modern era committee, an encouraging development for Flood's advocates. Flood's letter to Kuhn is on display in Cooperstown, too.

"He had a clearly building Hall of Fame career cut short," said Donald Fehr, the former MLBPA executive director who now leads the NHL players' union. "It was cut short because he said, 'Thus far and no farther. This is wrong. It has to change.'" □



**In this Friday, May 25, 2012 file, Italy's Filippo Magnini reacts after winning the Men's 100 meter Freestyle final at the European Swimming Championships in Debrecen, Hungary.**

**Associated Press**

## Swimmer Filippo Magnini's 4-year doping ban annulled by CAS

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)** — Two-time swimming world champion Filippo Magnini was cleared of doping and had his four-year ban annulled by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Thursday.

"I WON. The TAS acquitted me from any kind of accusation," Magnini wrote in a celebratory message on Instagram. "It has always been like this, I have always won races in the last few meters. They taught me

never to give up. I have always been an athlete and a correct person. I tremble with joy."

Italy's anti-doping agency banned the retired swimmer in 2018, finding him guilty of using and attempting to use banned substances.

Magnini had been linked to nutritionist Guido Porcellini, who was banned for 30 years for distributing illegal drugs.

However, a CAS panel

determined there was "insufficient evidence" in the case.

Magnini, who won the 100-meter freestyle at the 2005 and 2007 world championships and a relay bronze at the 2004 Olympics, never tested positive and maintains he never doped.

He was an outspoken critic of doping throughout his career, having taken part in an "I am doping free" initiative. □





**WHEELS GO ROUND SLOT MACHINES**

More new Vegas Style Themed slot machines at Hyatt Casino. More machines coming soon.

**Stop by, play and win**

HYATT, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts® and Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort, Spa & Casino® designs and related marks are trademarks of Hyatt Corporation ©2020 Hyatt Corporation. All rights reserved.

## Lewis, English ride exemptions to early Honda Classic lead

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.**

(AP) — Sponsor exemptions are basically free-play gifts handed out by the people in charge of golf tournaments, a handful of invitations available most weeks to those who wouldn't have otherwise qualified for an event.

Tom Lewis and Harris English were among the recipients for The Honda Classic.

They made the most of those chances Thursday. Lewis and English each shot 4-under 66 at PGA National, sharing the lead after the opening round. Lee Westwood — also in the field thanks to a sponsor exemption — was a shot back with Zach Johnson, J.T. Poston, Brian Stuard and Cameron Tringale.

"I didn't hit it my best, but I knew it was going to be one of those rounds you're going to have to grind it out," said English, a two-time winner on the PGA Tour in 2013, but winless since. "It's windy out there, you're going to have a lot of crosswinds, and it played really tough. My short game was on point, and I made some really good putts."

Sometimes, no putt was required: English holed out from about 25 yards on the par-4 11th, catching a great lie after a drop because his second shot came to rest on a sprinkler head.

"That was as good as I can

do," English said.

It was a rare easy-looking shot at PGA National. The average score was just a

do," English said. "Everybody who's out here is in a privileged position with nothing to lose. We should

amateur Englishman was a surprise co-leader after the opening round of the British Open. He played that

so low that you couldn't get any lower," Lewis said. "So it was like, 'Well, only good things can happen now.'" Good things happened in bunches Thursday, when Lewis had a bogey-free round.

"It can just happen," Lewis said, a few minutes before he sat in relative anonymity inside the resort's hotel lobby and had lunch while fans walked by mostly oblivious to the fact that they were passing a co-leader.

"Just one shot, one putt at the right time or good break and then all of a sudden it can snowball. I need to take a lot of belief from today."

Plenty of others weren't as chipper as Lewis and English were when their days at PGA National was over.

Third-ranked Brooks Koepka, in his hometown tournament, made a triple bogey and a double bogey in a four-hole span on the front side on his way to a 74.

"Didn't feel like I played that bad," Koepka said.

Defending champion Keith Mitchell finished birdie-birdie and still shot 75. Rickie Fowler, who won the Honda in 2017 and tied for second with Koepka last year, made one birdie all day and shot 76.

"It's a fine line," Fowler said. "Just got it going in the wrong direction."

That happens at PGA National. Only 22 of the 144 players broke par. □



**Harris English lines up a putt on the eighth hole during the first round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

smidge below 2 over, on a day where wind gusts often topped 20 mph.

"It's just live and survive, basically," said Matthew Ne-Smith, who had a hole-in-one on the par-3 fifth.

Westwood hit 11 of 14 fairways and was thoroughly pleased with how the day went.

"Everybody should play like

all be having fun. But at the age of nearly 47 it seems even easier. I don't play anywhere I don't want to play. I just play great tournaments and the ones I want to play in, and I set my own schedule, and it's just great fun."

Lewis made his splashy entrance into golf headlines in 2011, when the then-

opening round with Tom Watson, the five-time British Open winner who happens to be Lewis' namesake and his father's favorite player. He wound up as the European Tour's rookie of the year that season.

Not much has gone right since.

"I struggled for a while, and then I think really things got



# Joel Embiid sprains left shoulder, 76ers fall to Cavaliers

By The Associated Press

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Colin Sexton scored 28 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers routed Philadelphia 108-94 on Wednesday night after 76ers center Joel Embiid left in the first quarter because of a sprained left shoulder.

The 76ers, already playing without All-Star guard Ben Simmons, never led against the team with the worst record in the Eastern Conference and fell to 9-21 on the road.

Embiid collided with Cavaliers center Ante Zizic while being fouled late in the first quarter. The 7-footer held his shoulder in obvious pain but stayed in the game and missed both free throws.

The Sixers pulled Embiid at the next time stoppage and he walked to the locker room while rubbing his shoulder. He briefly returned to the bench in the second quarter, but went back for more evaluation and treatment. At halftime, Embiid rejoined his teammates on the bench with a wrap on his injured shoulder.

Tristan Thompson had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Larry Nance Jr. had 13 points for Cleveland.

Shake Milton, who replaced Simmons in the starting lineup, scored 20 points.

## MAVERICKS 109, SPURS 103

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Luka Dončić had 26 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds for his 13th triple-double of the



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, center, squeezes between Cleveland Cavaliers' Ante Zizic, left and Matthew Dellavedova in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

season, helping Dallas beat San Antonio.

Kristaps Porzingis added 28 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas.

DeMar DeRozan had 27 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for San Antonio.

## CELTICS 114, JAZZ 103

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Jayson Tatum had 33 points and 11 rebounds to lead Boston over skidding Utah. Jaylen Brown added 20 points and Marcus Smart had 17 for Boston. All five starters scored in double figures to help the Celtics finish 3-1 on a road trip out West.

Donovan Mitchell scored

37 points to lead Utah. Mike Conley chipped in with 15 and Royce O' Neale added 14 for the Jazz, who lost their fourth straight game — all at home.

## ROCKETS 140, GRIZZLIES 112

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Russell Westbrook scored 33 points, James Harden had 30 and Houston sailed past Memphis for its fifth straight win, 140-112 over the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday night.

Harden say out the fourth quarter. Westbrook sat down for good with about six minutes left. Dillon Brooks had 22 points for Memphis. They went 0-4 on their longest trip of the

season.

## TIMBERWOLVES 129, HEAT 126

**MIAMI (AP)** — Jordan McLaughlin's layup with just under nine seconds left put Minnesota ahead for good, D'Angelo Russell led all scorers with 27 points and the Timberwolves added to Miami's late-season stagger.

Malik Beasley scored 21 points, Juancho Hernangomez tied a season-high with 17 and McLaughlin added 13 for Minnesota. The Timberwolves were down by 12 with 3:59 left, then closed on a 20-5 run to get just their second victory in 20 games.

Kendrick Nunn led Miami with 24 points. Bam Adebayo had 22 points and 10 rebounds.

## WIZARDS 110, NETS 106

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Jerome Robinson hit a 3-pointer with 8.4 seconds left to lift Washington past Brooklyn.

After Robinson gave Washington a 108-106 lead, Brooklyn's Spencer Dinwiddie missed a 3-point attempt and Robinson added two free throws as Washington won after squandering an 18-point lead.

Bradley Beal led the Wizards with 30 points after consecutive games of 53 and 55 points.

Caris LeVert had 34 points for Brooklyn.

## MAGIC 130, HAWKS 120

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Evan Fournier scored 28 points, Aaron Gordon added 25 and Orlando pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Atlanta, Solidifying their hold on the final playoff spot in the East, the Magic put away the Hawks with a 14-5 spurt after Trae Young's drive cut Orlando's lead to five with 6:20 remaining.

Young had 37 points.

## HORNETS 107, KNICKS 101

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** — Terry Rozier scored 26 points and Charlotte handed New York its fifth straight loss.

The slumping Devonte Graham returned from a team-mandated night off to add 21 points. □

# NYCFC draws small crowd to Red Bull Arena for CONCACAF match



New York City FC midfielder Valentin Castellanos (11) fends off San Carlos defender Pablo Arboine during the first half in the second leg of a CONCACAF Champions League soccer match Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Harrison, N.J.

Associated Press

**HARRISON, N.J. (AP)** — Major League Soccer's New York City team drew a tiny crowd for its first competitive match of the season, a CONCACAF Champions League victory over Costa Rica's San Carlos that was played at Red Bull Arena. The announced crowd for Wednesday night's game was 4,396 in the 25,000-capacity stadium. The team said that figure was tickets distributed and the actual attendance was about 2,700.

NYC's home has been Yan-

kee Stadium in the Bronx since it launched in 2015, and the team has been trying to put together a deal for its own venue. This game was played at the home of its rival New York Red Bulls.

One game in each of the past two seasons was moved to the Mets' Citi Field in Queens because of baseball conflicts and four are scheduled to be played there this year. One game in 2016 was moved to Fordham's Coffey Field and one in 2017 to Rent-

schler Field in East Hartford, Connecticut.

NYC is majority owned by City Football Group, also the parent of England's Manchester City. CFG is controlled by of Abu Dhabi United Group and owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Yankees are a 20% partner in NYCFC.

NYC won 1-0 to advance 6-3 on total goals and will play Mexico's Tigres in the quarterfinals, at home from March 10-12 and on the road the following week. □



# Cousins, Fleury lead Golden Knights to 3-0 win over Oilers

By The Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Nick Cousins scored in his Vegas debut and the Golden Knights beat the Edmonton Oilers 3-0 on Wednesday night in a matchup of the top teams in the Pacific Division. Marc-Andre Fleury made 29 saves to earn his 61st career shutout, tied for 17th all-time with Turk Broda. The 16-year-veteran netminder is now 5-0-0 in his last five starts.

Cousins, acquired from Montreal at the NHL's trade deadline Monday, became the 10th player in Golden Knights history to score a goal in his team debut. He knocked home a rebound on a power play for his sixth overall goal to give the Golden Knights a 2-0 lead midway through the third period.

Max Pacioretty and Shea Theodore also scored for Vegas, which won its seventh straight game.

With the victory, the Golden Knights increased their lead to four points ahead of the Oilers and Vancouver, each with 74 points. Just six points separate the top four squads in the Pacific as



Edmonton Oilers center Leon Draisaitl (29) takes a shot on Vegas Golden Knights goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury (29) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Calgary holds the top wildcard spot, two points better than Nashville.

Vegas improved to 11-3-2 under Peter DeBoer, who replaced fired Gerard Gallant on Jan. 15.

Edmonton is 18-13-3 on the road.

## AVALANCHE 3, SABRES 2

DENVER (AP) — J.T. Com-

pher broke a tie on a wrist shot with 8:06 remaining, Martin Kaut scored his first NHL goal and banged-up Colorado won its fourth straight.

Gabriel Landeskog also scored to help the Avalanche vault into second place in the Central Division.

Pavel Francouz was sharp in stopping 31 shots, including several sprawling saves in the closing minute after the Sabres pulled their goalie for an extra skater. Zemgus Girgensons and Curtis Lazar scored for the Sabres, who have dropped five straight to Colorado. Wayne Simmonds made

his Buffalo debut after being acquired from the New Jersey Devils.

## KINGS 2, PENGUINS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Lizotte had a power-play goal and an assist, Cal Petersen made 36 saves and Los Angeles spoiled the debuts of Patrick Marleau and two more of Pittsburgh's deadline acquisitions.

Lizotte posted his second career multi-point game and Trevor Lewis also scored as the last-place Kings hung on for their fourth win in seven games. Tristan Jarry stopped 20 shots in Pittsburgh's fourth consecutive loss. Bryan Rust scored with 13:18 to play, but the Penguins couldn't get the equalizer past Petersen, who was strong in his seventh career victory. Evgeni Malkin got the key assist on Rust's goal while playing in his 900th career game, but the Penguins opened a road swing against California's three teams with their fourth straight regulation loss. That matches the Pens' total regulation defeats in their previous 22 games since Christmas. □

# Blues rule out Bouwmeester for remainder of season, playoffs

By WARREN MAYES

Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — St. Louis Blues defenseman Jay Bouwmeester has been ruled out from returning to play in the regular season or in the playoffs.

General manager Doug Armstrong made the announcement on Wednesday.

In a news conference at the Enterprise Center, Bouwmeester spoke to reporters for the first time since he collapsed on the bench in the first period during a game at the Anaheim Ducks on Feb. 11.

"It was a scary thing, but it's been going pretty good lately," he said. "We'll continue to evaluate things as it goes. I'm at the point now where I feel pretty good."

Armstrong discussed Bouwmeester's status for the remainder of this season.

"To clarify, Jay and I have

both spoken over the last week or so," Armstrong said. "We both understand that he won't participate in the regular season or play-

February. We don't have to make long-term decisions at this point. He's going to take time, get back in with his family and be around

annual fathers trip when they played in Anaheim. Bouwmeester said there was no warning anything was about to happen.

"Everything up to that point was normal," Bouwmeester said. "I hadn't been sick, or had much going on. It was completely out of the blue." Bouwmeester said he's been moved by the response he has received from people.

"The outreach and support people have shown has been pretty overwhelming," Bouwmeester said. "The people that were around at the time, as well as my dad being there on the trip, there were a lot of things that were absolute best-case scenario. He was able to relay information and that was extremely helpful to everyone."

"It's all been so humbling. It's a small world. People really do care."

The 36-year-old Edmonton native was hospitalized at the UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange County, California, and spent five nights in the hospital. Bouwmeester had a cardioverter defibrillator implanted into his chest. It is a device that monitors heart function. It also can deliver a shock to the heart if an arrhythmia happens to restore a regular heartbeat.

"I'm at the point now that I feel pretty good," Bouwmeester said. "The weird thing about this whole thing is you go from something that happened totally out of the blue and unexpected to being in the hospital for a couple of days. Now there are some restrictions as to what I can do. But I feel pretty normal. That's a good thing."

Bouwmeester said he hasn't thought about his future in the sport. □



St. Louis Blues defenseman Jay Bouwmeester reacts to a question about his injury during a press conference, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, at the Enterprise Center in St. Louis.

Associated Press

offs for us. We've talked about longer-term things that may or may not happen, but we both feel, it's

the team and he'll address those things as the summer progresses."

The Blues were hosting their





In this June 2, 2018, file photo, Major League baseball umpire Kerwin Danley (44) is shown during the first inning of a baseball game between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Miami Marlins in Phoenix.

Associated Press

## MLB appoints 1st black umpire crew chief

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kerwin Danley became the first African American umpire crew chief in Major League Baseball when a series of promotions, additions and retirements were announced Thursday.

The moves included Alfonso Marquez being elevated to the second Hispanic crew chief in MLB history. Crew chiefs Jeff Kellogg, Dana DeMuth, Gary Cederstrom and Mike Everitt have retired. Kellogg and Everitt will move into jobs as MLB umpire supervisors.

Dan Iassogna and Jim Reynolds were promoted to crew chiefs.

Ramon De Jesus, who worked his first big league game in 2016 as a minor league fill-in, moved up and became the first Dominican-born umpire on the MLB staff. Also getting full-time jobs in the majors were Ryan Blakney, Chris Segal and Jansen Visconti. Nic Lentz also joined the MLB umpire roster, replacing the late Eric Cooper.

The 58-year-old Danley has worked two World Series and 10 other postseason rounds, along with two All-Star Games. He called his first game in the majors in 1992 and was hired to the MLB staff in 1998.

Danley played college ball at San Diego State and was a first-team All-Ameri-

ca outfielder in 1983 when he batted .399. His teammates with the Aztecs included future Hall of Fame outfielder Tony Gwynn — Danley's roommate — and current Colorado manager Bud Black. In a neat coincidence, Danley was the first base umpire when Gwynn got his 3,000th hit during a 1999 game in Montreal and gave his former teammate a hug by the bag.

Danley began his umpiring career in 1985 in the Northwest League, and kept working his way up through the minors. He is known for having an even temperament, always an attractive quality when MLB picks its crew chiefs. He has totaled just four ejections in the past five seasons, according to retrosheet.org.

He also was an instructor at the first umpire camp at MLB's Urban Youth Academy in Compton, California. There have been about 10 full-time African American umpires in the majors since Emmett Ashford ascended to become the first in 1966. There have been several blacks in MLB umpire leadership positions, including Peter Woodfork, senior vice president of baseball operations, supervisor Cris Jones and the late Chuck Meriwether, a longtime big league umpire who became a supervisor. □



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale throws during spring training baseball camp Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020, in Sarasota, Fla.

Associated Press

## Sale to start season where he ended 2019: on injured list

Boston ace Chris Sale will start this season in the same place he ended 2019: on the injured list.

The left-hander will be placed on the IL after reporting to spring training with pneumonia. "With the sickness, it cost him two weeks' time and that two weeks is what we'd like to give him to make sure that he's right," Red Sox manager Ron Roenicke said Thursday. "He's worked hard on getting his arm right and we didn't think four starts in spring training was fair to him." Sale did not pitch after Aug. 13 last season due to elbow inflammation. The left-hander agreed with the decision, even though he's not happy about it.

"It was a gut punch," he said. "When we were in that meeting, I said, 'The only thing this hurts is my ego, and that doesn't matter.'"

### **CUBS**

Chicago Cubs reliever Brad Wieck had surgery this week for an abnormal heart flutter and is out indefinitely. The team said an irregular heartbeat was discovered during the 28-year-old left-hander's spring training physical. Subsequent tests showed an intermittent atrial flutter. Wieck underwent a cardiac ablation at Northwest-

ern Memorial Hospital in Chicago on Monday and returned to Arizona two days later. The Cubs said Wieck will rest and rehab for the next week, then be re-evaluated. Wieck had a 5.71 ERA over 44 appearances for San Diego and Chicago last season.

### **ORIOLES 13, PIRATES 0**

Chris Davis hit his second home run and is 4 for 5 with three walks. He is trying to rebound after hitting .192 with 92 homers, 230 RBIs, a .679 OPS and 745 strikeouts in the first four seasons of his \$161 million, seven-year contract. Ryan Mountcastle, a 23-year-old prospect, went 3 for 3 with two doubles, a home run and three RBIs. Pittsburgh's Kevin Newman, picked No. 19 overall in 2015, went 0 for 3 and is 1 for 9.

### **PHILLIES 12, RED SOX 5**

Scott Kingery had three RBIs, including a two-run homer, and Alec Bohm added two RBIs. The 23-year-old Bohm, picked No. 3 overall in 2018, is 5 for 10. Jonathan Arauz, a 21-year-old shortstop, hit a three-run homer for Boston and 20-year-old prospect Bryan Mata allowed two hits and walked one with two strikeouts in two scoreless innings. Jeter Downs, acquired in the deal that

sent Mookie Betts to the Dodgers, went 0 for 1 and is hitless with three strikeouts in seven at-bats.

### **BRAVES 3, CARDINALS 1**

Dansby Swanson's RBI double gave Atlanta a 2-1 lead in the fifth inning. Freddie Freeman said Thursday that he hopes to return to the lineup next week. The four-time All-Star, who batted .295 and set career highs with 38 home runs and 121 RBIs last season, has been out of action since his surgically-repaired right elbow swelled on Monday. Top-prospect Dylan Carlson went 1 for 1 with two walks and is batting .455.

### **TWINS 3, BLUE JAYS 3**

Jake Cave went 3 for 3 with two doubles and a home run and starter Randy Dobnak and five relievers combined to allow one hit in the first eight innings. Reece McGuire's solo homer in the first. Bo Bichette and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. both went 0 for 3. Bichette is 1 for 14 and Gurriel is 0 for 11. Hyun-Jin Ryu allowed three hits and one run over two innings.

### **YANKEES 7, RAYS (SS) 1**

Clint Frazier and Tyler Wade hit back-to-back home runs in a three-run first inning. Daniel Robertson was 2 for 3 with a double and run scored for Tampa Bay. □



## U.S. women's pursuit takes gold at track cycling championships

**BERLIN (AP)** — Once again, the Americans will head to the Olympics as the gold-medal favorite in the women's team pursuit.

The question now is whether they can finish the job.

The quartet of Chloe Dygert, Jennifer Valente, Emma White and Lily Williams roared to the world championship at the Berlin Velodrome on Thursday, easily beating back the reigning Olympic champions from Britain. Their winning time of 4 minutes, 11.235 seconds stamped them as the team to beat at the Tokyo Games later this summer.

"We've had quite the journey in the last couple of years," White said. "This is good but it's not over with the Olympics this summer, but we're excited."

In other events on Day 2 of the track cycling world championships, Dutch rider Harrie Lavreysen added to his team sprint gold from Wednesday by capturing the keirin title. And the Danish men's pursuit team of Rasmus Pedersen, Frederik Rodenberg Madsen, Lasse Norman Hansen and Julius Johnson broke their own world record in winning



The USA team, Lily Williams, from left, Emma White, Chloe Dygert, and Jennifer Valente celebrate winning the gold medal at the awards ceremony for the World Championship final of the Women Team Pursuit event in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

gold. Dygert and Valente are back from the American team that won gold at the 2016 world championships ahead of the Rio Games. But along with Sarah Hammer and the late Kelly Catlin, the team fell to their longtime rivals in the Olympic finals, relegated to a silver medal that was both rewarding and disap-

pointing. The U.S. went out hot on Thursday, putting 1.75 seconds into the British team of Elinor Barker, Katie Archibald, Eleanor Dickinson and Neah Evans by the first 1,000 meters. The advantage increased to more than 2 1/2 seconds by the midway point of the race, when the British squad dropped one of its

riders and pressed on with just three.

The Americans lost a few tenths of a second down the stretch, but wound up winning by 1.894 seconds. "It's always special to win," said Dygert, the road time trial world champion who will be favored to win gold in individual pursuit later in the week. "You try not to

look at who the competition is. We run our race and that's what we did."

The keirin was shaken up in the semifinals, when reigning Olympic champion Jason Kenny failed to advance.

That made the path easier for Lavreysen, who has been part of three straight world champion sprint teams. He went three-wide entering the final lap and held off silver medalist Yuta Wakimoto of Japan and Azizulhasni Awang of Malaysia.

"I can't really believe it. Yesterday a world title, today a world title. It's insane," Lavreysen said. "I really didn't do a lot in the beginning, but in the semifinal I really picked up my pace and I had a big plan for the final and it worked out perfectly."

There was little drama in the men's pursuit final after the Danish team twice broke the world record in previous rounds, sending it into the finals against New Zealand a heavy favorite. Denmark had reached the same straight as the Kiwis with about 500 meters to go, and the team crossed the finish line in 3:44.672. □

## Marathon

Continued from Page 17

Pound said if the coronavirus outbreak poses a threat too great to hold the Olympics in Tokyo, the games likely would be cancelled instead of postponed or moved.

Tokyo organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto on Wednesday responded to Pound's comments by calling a news conference to say plans are being made to proceed with a safe Olympics. "Our basic thoughts are that we will go ahead with the Olympic and Paralympic Games as scheduled," Muto said, speaking in Japanese. "For the time being, the situation of the coronavirus infection is, admittedly, difficult to predict, but we will take measures such that we'll have a safe Olympic

and Paralympic Games." The Olympic marathon is scheduled to be staged in Sapporo, a couple hours from Tokyo. The event was moved to protect the runners from the heat in Tokyo. Ward said the trials "creates a stage on its own and an Olympic feel on its own."

"My feeling of competing in and crossing the finish line in the Olympic trials in 2016 was as exciting as crossing the finish line in Rio later that year," Ward said. "So I think there's still something to race for, regardless of what happens later on down the line. I'm excited to be a part of that and to embrace that opportunity." The viral outbreak is responsible for more than 2,700 deaths and has infected more than 80,000 people globally. The outbreak began in China two months



In this March 15, 2015, file photo, Jared Ward, from Provo, Utah, crosses the finish line at the Los Angeles Marathon in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

ago and has spread to South Korea, the Middle East and Europe. Japan itself has reported four deaths.

"I'm not like an infectious disease expert and I try to be educated," said Scott Fauble, whose finished seventh in the 2019 Boston Marathon. He was the top American in the field.

"I try to listen to podcasts and read articles about it, but me worrying about what the coronavirus does in six months doesn't help me on Saturday," Fauble said. Riley, who led U.S. runners by finishing ninth in the 2019 Chicago Marathon, noted another major event already was postponed. On Jan. 29, the indoor

world athletics championships in Nanjing, China, were postponed until 2021 due to the coronavirus.

That postponement, combined with Pound's warning, gives cause for concern.

"It's there in the back of my mind but I'm trying not to think about it too much," Riley said. □





This Nov. 17, 2017, file photo shows a view inside an electric driverless shuttle produced by EasyMile, during an experiment, in Paris.

Associated Press

## U.S. agency stops autonomous shuttle firm from hauling people

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. government's highway safety agency has ordered an autonomous shuttle company to stop carrying passengers in 16 U.S. cities after a mysterious braking problem occurred in Columbus, Ohio.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says the suspension will remain in place while it examines safety issues with the low-speed shuttles operated by France-based EasyMile.

To operate without a steer-

ing wheel and brake pedals, the imported shuttles need the agency to grant an exemption from federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The 12-15 passenger shuttles were halted in Columbus as well as Dover, Delaware; West Valley City, Park City, Farmington and Salt Lake City, Utah; Dallas, Houston and Corpus Christi, Texas; Dublin, California; Golden, Colorado; Raleigh, North Carolina; Gainesville, Florida; Fairfax, Arlington and Blacksburg, Virginia; and Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

The agency made the move after an EasyMile shuttle in Columbus braked suddenly, causing a passenger to fall from a seat and suffer a minor injury.

"NHTSA will continue to work with all affected parties, including EasyMile and local authorities, to evaluate potential future vehicle operations, consistent with applicable legal requirements and public safety," the agency said in a statement.

Low-speed shuttles generally run 25 mph or less and are restricted to small geographic areas. The EasyMile shuttles have a human attendant on board to han-

dle unexpected problems. EasyMile said in a statement that its shuttle in Columbus was traveling 7.1 miles per hour (11.4 kilometers per hour) when it made an emergency stop as it is programmed to do, but it is unclear what triggered the emergency stop. The company said it is running test loops to analyze the suddenness of the stop.

The statement said NHTSA is still allowing EasyMile vehicles on the road in 10 states for testing but they will not be accessible to the public.

Sharad Agarwal, EasyMile senior vice president in Denver, said the company is investigating why the shuttle computer decided to stop. The shuttles are programmed to stop if they detect any kind of problem, he said.

"We'd be more concerned if it didn't stop," Agarwal said.

Earlier this month NHTSA granted Silicon Valley robotics company Nuro temporary approval to run autonomous delivery vehicles on public roads for the first time without human occupants. Those vehicles also had to get an exemption from federal safety standards. □



The DoorDash app is shown on a smartphone on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020 in New York.

Associated Press

## Delivery giant DoorDash takes step toward public offering

By **ALEXANDRA OLSON**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Food delivery giant DoorDash has taken a first formal step toward a stock market debut. The San Francisco-based company said Thursday that it had filed paperwork with the Securities Exchange Commission outlining its proposed public stock offering. There was no proposed date for an initial offering, which could be a long way off. Last year, rival Postmates delayed plans for an IPO, citing unfavorable market conditions.

DoorDash Inc. has overtaken Grubhub as the top digital food delivery company in the U.S., according to data analytics firm Second Measure, capturing 38% of monthly food delivery sales in January, compared to 31% for Grubhub.

Analysts have said both DoorDash and Postmates are burning cash and need money-raising options as the third-party delivery business becomes more fragmented and competitive.

DoorDash was valued at about \$13 billion after a Nov. 13 funding round that raised \$700 million, according to PitchBook Data.

Wall Street has been wary of fast-growing, money-losing companies. Ride-hailing company Uber — another major delivery player through Uber Eats — has traded well below its IPO price since going public last year, as has rival Lyft.

Besides Uber, Grubhub is the only publicly traded digital food delivery company. Grubhub saw its stock plunge last fall after slashing full-year revenue expectations, citing costs associated with gaining customer loyalty in a crowded field.

Food delivery apps are fighting over a growing but still small market. Delivery represents only about 3% of all restaurant orders, according to market research firm NDP.

Delivery companies are also facing legal battles over business practices that critics say harm both restaurants and freelance workers that deliver meals.

DoorDash has pledged \$30 million to fight a new California law that would give contractors workplace protections of full-fledged employees. In New York, the City Council is considering a legislation to cap the commissions that food delivery apps charge restaurants. □



**Have you ever wish you travel to Aruba with just a carry-on ?**

And leave all your belongings in a container being deliver and pick up right at your resort or home rental !

- As low as **\$6.50 a month**
- Pricing include pick-up&delivery
- Saves you time & money, year after year!
- Avoid extra luggages
- Affordable Storage Pricing
- Convenience & Peace of mind

For more information,  
Give us a call **+297 568.4393**  
or email us [locknrolltimesharestorage@gmail.com](mailto:locknrolltimesharestorage@gmail.com).  
[locknrollarubastorageandtimeshare.simplesite.com](http://locknrollarubastorageandtimeshare.simplesite.com)  
or visit our Facebook page!



# How to make a student loan complaint that gets results

By ANNA HELHOSKI of NerdWallet

Trying to make a complaint against your student loan lender or servicer may feel like screaming into the void. In 2019, federal student aid customers made 44,155 complaints using the Federal Student Aid Feedback System, according to the most recent report of the Federal Student Aid Ombudsman. The most common complaints dealt with repaying loans. The Department of Education, in an email, said while all complaints will be reviewed and responded to, "we cannot guarantee a customer a specific result or change in their current situation."

Don't let that stop you from voicing your concerns to the powers that be. Before you send off a fiery email, set reasonable expectations about the outcome—it may not be what you want. But it's possible to get a result if you know the right steps to take.

## START WITH YOUR LENDER OR SERVICER

You'll see results fastest by contacting your private lender or federal loan servicer first, says Betsy Mayotte, president and founder

of the Institute of Student Loan Advisors.

Reach out to the lender or servicer's highest office of customer service, whether that's a consumer advocate, ombudsman or claims department. Its general call center might not give you the response you're looking for or have the authority to make account changes.

Send an email first to the company's general customer service address, which will get your message to the right person, says Mayotte. Written correspondence ensures you have a paper trail. A phone call might seem easier, but it's more difficult to track interactions with your lender or servicer.

When you make a complaint, document everything and keep your narrative consistent, experts say. It also helps to be clear about what you're asking for, says Bonnie Latreille, director of research and advocacy at the nonprofit Student Borrower Protection Center.

"It's really easy for any company to send off a form letter," she adds. "But if a borrower says, 'I have called and sought relief, and you

advertise relief on your website and I want to know what's available to me,' then the servicer needs to supply what plans you're eligible for and a copy of the applications."

## ESCALATE YOUR COMPLAINT

If your issue isn't resolved with your lender or servicer, bring it to the government. All federal loan borrowers should submit complaints through the Federal Student Aid Feedback System. Private loan borrowers should submit complaints to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

When you submit to the feedback system, you can expect a response via email or letter within 15 days and typically get a resolution within 60 days, according to an email from the Education Department. If not, you can contact the Federal Student Aid Ombudsman Group.

## SEEK OUTSIDE HELP

Your state attorney general's office, state consumer protection office and congressional representative are additional resources to lodge complaints with.

There's also no wrong time in the complaint process to seek advice. Nonprof-



In this Nov. 14, 2019, file photo, students walk on the campus of Utah Valley University, in Orem, Utah.

Associated Press

it consumer advocacy groups such as the Institute of Student Loan Advisors offer free help to student borrowers to navigate the process.

You can pay for legal services, but these services may be expensive, says Adam Minsky, a Massachusetts attorney who specializes in student loans issues. He recommends contacting an attorney only when you've exhausted all your options.

## LEARN HOW TO CHANGE YOUR LENDER OR SERVICER

If all else fails, it is possible to change your lender or servicer.

You can refinance private and federal loans with a private lender. And federal borrowers can pick a new servicer after consolidating with the government. □

# Fake meat and a latte? Starbucks adds Beyond Meat in Canada

By JOSEPH PISANI  
AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Starbucks customers in Canada will soon be able to down fake meat with their Frappuccinos.

The coffee chain said Wednesday that it will soon start selling a sandwich featuring a meat-free patty from Beyond Meat, the El Segundo, California, company whose products are being put on the menu at other fast food chains as well.

Restaurants have been rushing to add patties that mimic meat to their menus to try and boost sales.

Burger King sells a Whopper stuffed with a patty from rival Impossible Foods. And coffee chain Dunkin' already has a breakfast sandwich with a Beyond Meat patty.

Starbucks said its new sandwich, which also has egg and cheddar cheese, will be available at almost all its 1,500 Canadian stores in March. The patty is made from peas and brown rice and features a blend of fennel, rosemary and other spices.

The Seattle roaster has talked about introducing plant-based patties in the U.S., but has yet to do so. □



In this May 2, 2019, file photo, Ethan Brown, center, CEO of Beyond Meat, attends the Opening Bell ceremony with guests to celebrate the company's IPO at Nasdaq in New York.

Associated Press

**Extend your stay at**

All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms). Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets. Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 Large Supermarkets. Feel Free to contact or visit us. Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697  
Calls from USA & Canada: 1-888-415-1095 (toll free)  
Calls from The Netherlands: 085-009-0218 (toll free)  
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba  
Email: [info@arubaqualityapartments.com](mailto:info@arubaqualityapartments.com)  
Website: [www.arubaqualityapartments.com](http://www.arubaqualityapartments.com)



## Marriott Aruba Surf Club

**PLATINUM Season**  
2B Oceanfront \$26k  
Oceanside \$16,500  
Oceanview \$15,500  
3BEDRM \$28k  
\*WK. 51 OV \$39k  
\*WK. 52 OV \$49k  
\* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

**GOLD Season**  
2B Oceanfront \$14k  
2B Oceanside \$8k  
GV \$5k OV \$7k  
3BEDRM \$13k

## Marriott Aruba Ocean

**PLATINUM Season**  
2 Bed OV \$16500 **Club**  
2B OF \$26k  
1B OV \$9k  
\*\* Destination points \$8 per point

**GOLD Season**  
2B Oceanfront \$14k  
2B OV \$9k  
1 Bed \$4k  
1B OF \$9k

**La Cabana Beach Resort**  
2Bd-Weeks 30-33 Unit 322BC  
and Unit 412BC \$6500 e.week

**Divi Aruba Phoenix**  
Week 27 and week 29  
Penthouse 2Bed 3 Bath  
Other week also available

## We Need Sellers!!!

Costa Linda & Playa Linda  
& All Divi Weeks

**We are the #1  
RESALE  
agent in Aruba!**

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

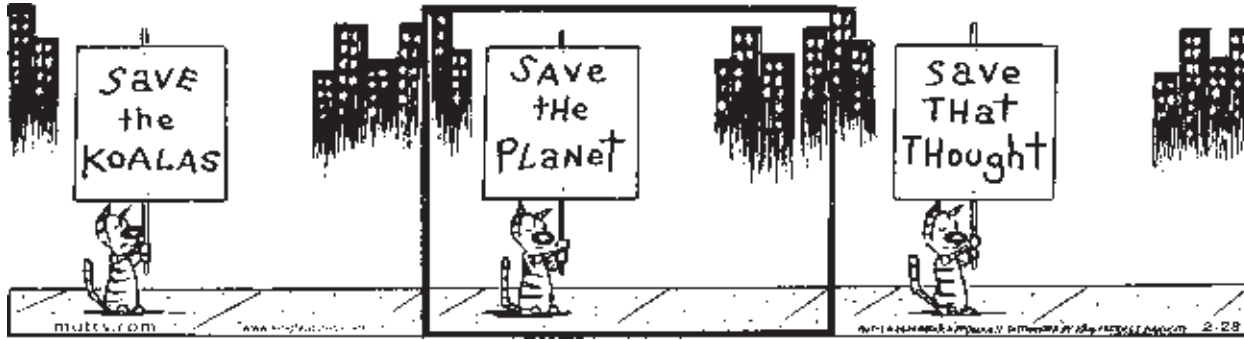
**Contact:**  
[julie@conciergerealty.com](mailto:julie@conciergerealty.com)  
**888-888-2204 Ext 111**  
**Website:**  
[www.conciergerealty.com](http://www.conciergerealty.com)

**Broker: Michelle Donato**

[www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean/)



**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

2		6				5		1
1			9		3			8
		8	7		5	6		
				8				
		3	4		9	7		
9			5		6			4
7		2				8		5

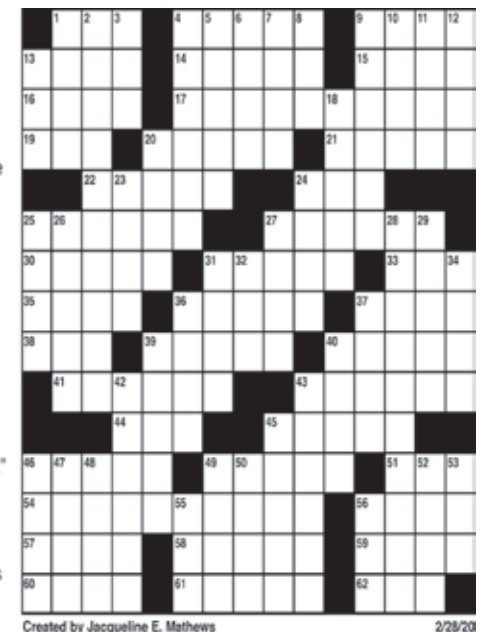
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	9	8	7	4	6	1	5	3
6	5	7	3	1	9	2	8	4
4	1	3	2	5	8	9	6	7
3	8	1	4	7	5	6	2	9
9	7	6	8	2	3	5	4	1
5	2	4	6	9	1	7	3	8
8	4	9	1	6	2	3	7	5
1	3	2	5	8	7	4	9	6
7	6	5	9	3	4	8	1	2

- ACROSS**
- TV's "Chicago"
  - "When You Wish Upon"
  - Tenement bldg. units
  - together; unite for a cause
  - No longer fresh
  - Metal bar
  - Painting & sketching
  - Infection from contaminated food
  - "Be quiet!"
  - Business transactions
  - Beginning
  - "Never put off tomorrow what..."
  - "Mamma"
  - Informal
  - Mouth, slangily
  - Go out on; take a wild guess
  - Cinnamon or nutmeg
  - Dyer's tub
  - Expose another's secret
  - Base runner's play
  - Nickname for Elizabeth
  - Eva, to Zsa Zsa
  - MRI and CT
  - "Ave"
  - Hire
  - Deep narrow valley
  - Go bad
  - Extend one's subscription
  - Type of sailboat
  - Seawater
  - Weather forecast
  - Handy
  - Office note
  - Up to the task
  - U.S. state capital
  - Gloomy; hopeless
  - Clark & Orison
  - Actor Ed
  - Encountered



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/28/20

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

EDAM	MAJOR	TAFT
ARCO	ARENA	RILE
SURE	LOSANGELES	
EGO	FAST	ONSET
BRIDE	BAD	
BRAINY	POLYPS	
OUTIN	PLAYS	ROT
OMIT	ALANS	DELI
NBC	CREPE	POSED
ASTHMA	AROUSE	
HAS	PRIMP	
CHARM	GERM	PAD
RECUPERATE	TODD	
OLE	LIMES	ASAN
WISH	KMART	GEMS

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

2/28/20

- DOWN**
- One of the planets
  - Eagerness
  - Dentist's letters
  - Attack
  - Drag one's feet
  - "A... of Two Cities"
  - Poor box donation
  - Old Oldsmobile
  - Basketball game venues
  - Buddies
  - Mah-jongg piece
  - Venetian blinds
  - piece
  - relief; sculptural style
  - Clamor
  - Use a dagger
  - Deadened
  - Small rodents
  - Hired vehicles
  - TV's "Kate & ..."
  - Children
  - In all places
  - Numerical comparison
  - Kill
  - Clothing fastener
  - Other; besides
  - Aberdeen native
  - Burden; scourge
  - Hillside
  - Horse's hair
  - Shows to be true
  - Middle
  - Dishwasher cycle
  - Sign of a past surgery
  - Mexican wolf
  - "the Brave"; 2017 Josh Brolin film
  - Short life sketches
  - Harness strap
  - Leave out
  - Cruise or Hanks
  - Hoopsters' org.
  - "Rain Man" production co.



## 'Leaning Tower of Dallas' endures blows from wrecking ball

**DALLAS (AP)** — The "Leaning Tower of Dallas," a social media sensation born when a part of a building survived implosion, endured hundreds of blows from a wrecking ball Monday.

Dozens of people gathered northeast of the Texas city's downtown to watch as a crane was used to batter the former Affiliated Computer Services building. But the developer now says the demolition may take days.

The 11-story building found a second life online after surviving a first demolition attempt. It inspired jokes and comparisons to Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa when a Feb. 16 implosion failed to bring down its core.

The company that engineered the blast said some explosives did not go off. In the following week, people flocked to the site to post photos of themselves pretending to prop up the lopsided tower. □

### EAGLE ARUBA RESORT

1 bedroom wk 3  
\$6000  
Phone USA (+1) 978-256-5580  
212443

### FOR SALE BY OWNER

**Divi Village Golf**  
Bldg. E 1 BR 2 Bath, 2 patios deck, hot tub. grill. Floating week (wk 51-wk15) 19 weeks remaining \$8000  
janellemickelson@gmail.com  
212563

### Wanted to buy

**Week 7 at Costa Linda**  
You may contact Kevin at thequake@aol.com or 508-843-1953  
212554

### EAGLE ARUBA RESORT

week 1,2,3,4+5,6  
1 BR 1st floor \$6500  
**Paradise Beach**  
week 50 Studio \$4000 each  
2 BR wk 51-52 \$15000 each  
Home 1518 537 6406  
Cel. 1518 965 7878  
After February 15, 2020  
desankabubnjovic3@gmail.com  
212406

# Classifieds

### Aruba Beach Resort wk 5+6

3 Br sleeps 8 1st floor south tower deeded full amenities + washer, dryer 2 full bath 35k commodoremtrs@icloud.com  
212427

### Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 1/1408 (15k);  
Week 2/1113 (16k);  
Week 5/1315 (18k);  
Week 5&6/1521 (20k/Wk.);  
Week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);  
Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);  
Week 9/1218 (15k);  
Week 10/1207 (15k);  
Weeks 11-15 also available!  
CDMOwner@gmail.com  
U.S. (860)992-3890  
212287



### Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

### Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

### Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

### Editors

Richard Brooks

### Sales

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Sulaika Croes

### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto  
Pilar Flores

### Columnists

Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Shanella Pantophlet  
Steve Frances  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800  
E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
@arubatoday

### Halley Time Travel

#### For Rent

**Marriott Surf Club**  
2 BR Ocean Side \$4 K  
6 March to 13 March 2020  
Marriott Ocean Club  
1 BR Ocean View \$3 K  
20 March to 27 March 2020

#### Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season  
1 BR Ocean View \$ 10 K  
1 BR Ocean Front \$ 20 K  
2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K

#### Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season  
2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K  
2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K  
3 BR Ocean View \$ 26 K

#### Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 8  
building 6 on the 4 th floor  
27 weeks remain \$15 K  
1 BR WK # 11  
building 7 on the 3rd floor  
33 weeks remain \$15 K

#### Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH WK # 11/12  
building 9 on the 7 th floor  
30 weeks remain \$35 K each

#### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 6  
Birdie 1 on the 2 sd floor  
19 weeks remain \$ 8 K  
Studio WK # 5,7,8 \$8 K each  
Birdie 1 on Ground floor  
22/27/29 weeks remain

#### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 8/9 \$9,5 K each  
Eagle 9 Ground floor  
27 and 19 weeks remain  
1 BR WK # 11 \$9 K  
Birdie 3 with 26 weeks remain

#### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 12/13 \$9,5 K each  
Birdie 10 Ground Floor  
33/34 weeks remain  
Studio WK # 5,6,7,8,9  
Birdie 9 3rd floor \$10 K each  
38 weeks remain each

#### Divi Village

studio WK 6 \$8 K  
Building F 21 weeks remain  
2 BR WK 13 \$ 14 K  
Building C 3rd floor  
28 weeks remain

#### Renaissance Suites

1 BR WK # 9 \$ 9 K  
4th floor harbor view  
1BR sleep 4 \$1200 each  
6 to 20 February 2020

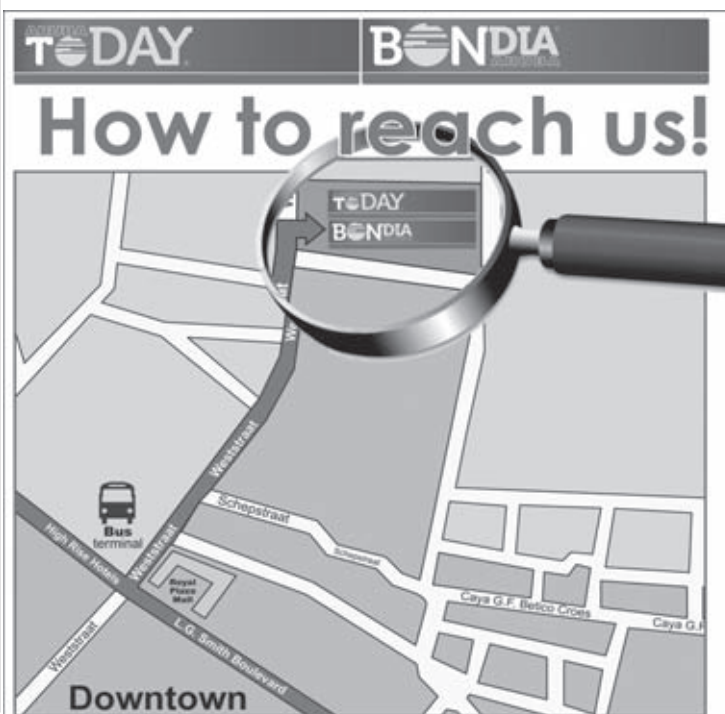
#### Playa Linda Beach Resort

Studio wk 10 and 11 \$25K both  
weeks ground floor on Palm

#### Beach Dutch Village

1 BR WK 7 and 8 \$ 9 K each  
15 weeks remain each  
2 BR WK 7 \$ 18 K  
25 weeks remain  
**Dutch Village**  
1 BR WK 8 \$ 8 K  
12 weeks remain  
1 BR WK 9 \$9 K  
1 BR WK 7 and 8 \$ 9 K each  
12/24 weeks remain  
16 weeks remain

Call: 630 1307  
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com  
www.buyarubatimeshares.com  
www.bestbuyrealtayaruba.



### HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

IMSAN 24 Hours  
Tel.524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:  
Del Pueblo Tel. 582 1253  
San Nicolas:  
San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### CRUISES



February 28  
Rotterdam  
MS Sirena  
Febrero 29  
Oceania Riviera/ Zuiderdam

### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties  
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



# About 40% of U.S. adults are obese, government survey finds

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
AP Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — About 4 in 10 American adults are obese, and nearly 1 in 10 is severely so, government researchers said Thursday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention findings come from a 2017-18 health survey that measures height and weight. More than 5,000 U.S. adults took part. The survey found that the obesity rate was 42% — higher than the 40% found in a similar 2015-16 study. The severe obesity rate was more than 9% in the new survey, up from the 8% figure in the previous one. Those increases aren't considered statistically significant: The survey numbers are small enough that there's a mathematical chance the rates didn't truly rise. But it's clear that adult obesity rates are trending up, said the CDC's Cynthia Ogden, one of the report's authors. A half-century ago, about 1 in 100 American adults were severely obese.



In this Jan. 20, 2010 file photo, a subject's waist is measured during an obesity prevention study in Chicago.

Now it's 10 times more common. The obesity rate has risen about 40% in the last two decades. The findings suggest that more Americans will get diabetes, heart disease and cancer, said Dr. William Dietz, a George Washington University obesity expert.

It also will be increasingly difficult for doctors to care for so many severely obese people, Dietz said. He has estimated that on average, every primary care doctor treating adults has about 100 severely obese patients. "How's a provider going to

do that? Severe obesity really requires very intensive therapy," he said. The CDC did not report new obesity numbers for kids and teens. That may come out later this year, Ogden said. In 2015-16, 18.5% of kids and teens were obese and just under 6% were se-

verely obese. Dietz faulted the government for not pushing for more measures to promote physical activity and better eating. Building more sidewalks and passing a national tax on sugary beverages could make a big difference, he said.

Obesity — which means not merely overweight, but seriously overweight — is considered one of the nation's leading public health problems.

It is measured by the body mass index, or BMI, a figure calculated from a person's weight and height. A BMI of 25 or greater is considered overweight, a BMI of 30 and above is obese, and a BMI of 40 or above is severely obese.

A person who is 5-foot-4, the average height for U.S. women, is considered obese at a weight of 174 pounds and severely obese above 232 pounds. A person who is 5-foot-9, about the average height for men, is deemed obese at 203 pounds and severely obese at 270. □

Associated Press

# Biggest explosion seen in universe came from black hole

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)** — Astronomers have discovered the biggest explosion seen in the universe, originating from a super-massive black hole. Scientists reported Thursday that the blast came from a black hole in a cluster of galaxies 390 million light-years away. The explosion was so large it carved out a crater in the hot gas that could hold 15 Milky Ways, said lead author Simona Giacintucci of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington.

It's five times bigger than the previous record-holder. Astronomers used NASA's Chandra X-Ray Observatory to make the discovery, along with a European space observatory and ground telescopes. They believe the explosion came from the heart of the Ophiuchus cluster of thousands of galaxies: a large galaxy at the center contains a colossal black hole. Black holes don't just draw matter in. They also blast out jets of material and energy. The first hint of this giant explosion actually came in

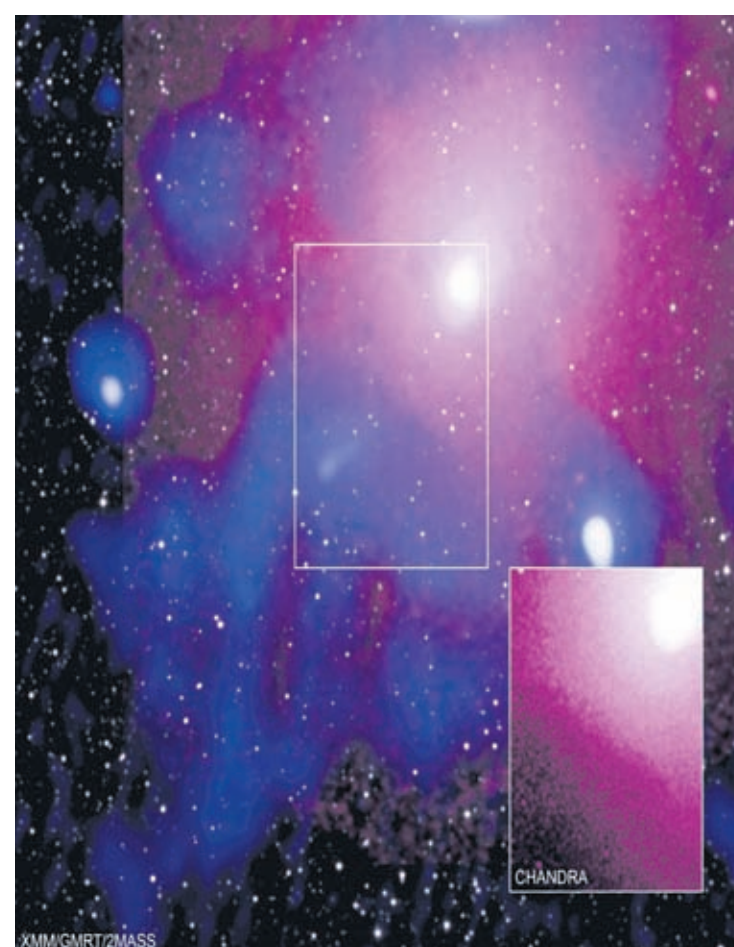
2016. Chandra images of the Ophiuchus galaxy cluster revealed an unusual curved edge, but scientists ruled out an eruption given the amount of energy that would have been needed to carve out such a large cavity in the gas.

The two space observatories, along with radio data from telescopes in Australia and India, confirmed that the curvature was, indeed, part of a cavity.

"The radio data fit inside the X-rays like a hand in a glove," co-author Maxim Markevitch of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, said in a statement. "This is the clincher that tells us an eruption of unprecedented size occurred here."

The blast is believed to be over by now: There are no signs of jets currently shooting from the black hole.

More observations are needed in other wavelengths to better under-



Associated Press

stand what occurred, according to the team.

The findings appeared in the *Astrophysical Journal*. □

**Honey Dolls**  
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

**+297 565-9535**

**WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM**

24/7



# Loughlin, Giannulli set for October trial in college scam

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — TV actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, will go on trial in October on charges that they bribed their daughters' way into the University of Southern California, a federal judge said Thursday.

The judge set the trial date a day after defense attorneys claimed that new evidence would exonerate the couple of charges in the college admissions bribery scheme that has embroiled prestigious universities across the country. The famous couple will be tried starting Oct. 5 in Boston federal court alongside six other prominent parents accused of rigging the college admissions process. Seven others still fighting the charges will go to trial in January 2021, U.S. District Judge Nathaniel Gorton said. Loughlin, who played Aunt Becky on the sitcom "Full House," and Giannulli are accused of paying \$500,000 to get their daughters into USC as recruits to the rowing team, though neither of them was a rower. Authorities say Loughlin and Giannulli



In this April 3, 2019, file photo, actress Lori Loughlin, front, and her husband, clothing designer Mossimo Giannulli, left, depart federal court in Boston.

helped create fake athletic profiles for the teens by sending the consultant at the center of the scheme, Rick Singer, photos of their teens posing on rowing machines. The money was funneled through a sham charity operated by Singer, who has pleaded guilty to orchestrating the scheme, authorities say. Loughlin

and Giannulli's lawyers had urged the judge to delay the setting of the trial dates in light of new evidence they received from prosecutors this week. They say this evidence bolsters the couple's claim that they believed their payments

were legitimate donations, not bribes. But the judge said the cases need to be resolved expeditiously and instructed defense attorneys to file any motions to dismiss the case by March 13. Loughlin and Giannulli's attorneys said in a filing

late Wednesday that prosecutors provided them with notes from Singer's iPhone. Singer says in the notes that FBI agents yelled at him and told him to lie to get parents to say things in recorded phone calls that could be used against them. The lawyers also say Singer's notes indicate that FBI agents told him to lie by saying he told parents who participated in the so-called "side door" scheme that the payments were bribes, not legitimate donations.

"Loud and abrasive call with agents. They continue to ask me to tell a fib and not restate what I told my clients as to where the money was going — to the program and not the coach and that it was a donation and they want it to be a payment," Singer wrote, according to the filing. Singer's notes weren't given to the defense until this week because the government believed they were privileged and didn't review them further after discovering them in October 2018, prosecutors say. □

Associated Press

## Author Edwidge Danticat wins \$20,000 Story Prize

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Edwidge Danticat had an eventful Wednesday, praised for work both past and current.

Hours after the American Academy of Arts and Letters announced that she was among this year's new members of the venerable honor society, Danticat became the first two-time winner of the Story Prize, a \$20,000 award for short fiction.

She was presented the Story Prize on Wednesday night for her collection "Everything Inside," set in part in Miami and her native Haiti. In 2005, she won the inaugural Story Prize for "The Dew Breaker."

"It is something to see a writer whose previous work

is already canonical, write a story collection with the fierce desperation and love usually seen in first books," Story Prize judges wrote in their citation.

"But Danticat is not one of our regular writers, she is a harking angel. She comes to tell us that the world is new, again and again, and that stories will not lose their urgency, their necessity."

The other finalists Wednesday night were Kali Fajardo-Anstine for "Sabrina & Corina" and Zadie Smith for "Grand Union."

Danticat is also known for the memoir "Brother, I'm Dying" and for the novel "Breath, Eyes, Memory," which Oprah Winfrey selected for her book club in 1998. □

## Kobe Bryant handprints, other memorabilia up for auction

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Some key Kobe Bryant memorabilia, including two of his Los Angeles Lakers uniforms and cement handprints from his induction into the Grauman's Chinese Theater hall of fame gallery, are going up for sale in April.

Julien's Auctions said Thursday that the items would be up for sale on April 30 as part of its annual sports auction that includes a silver medal from the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles and a 2002 FIFA World Cup gold winner's medal.

Bryant's items were already being planned for auction when he, his daughter Gianna and seven others were killed in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26.

"We are honored to in-



In this Feb. 23, 2007, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, top, goes up for a shot between Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce, left, and Al Jefferson during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

clude this collection of his items and pay tribute to this giant who was an inspiration not only to basketball fans but to the entire world," said Darren Julien, Julien's Auctions' president and CEO.

The Lakers uniforms up for sale are one worn during

the 2000 NBA Finals, with his original number 8. The uniform included a black armband which marked the memory of Wilt Chamberlain, who died that season.

The other uniform was from his 2007 season, when his number was 24. □



# Kids shine as Broadway's 'To Kill a Mockingbird' goes big

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The cast of "To Kill a Mockingbird" ditched its somber Broadway home Wednesday for the cavernous Madison Square Garden, performing the play for 18,000 school kids in an electric one-time-only performance that one actor called "primal." It marks the first time a Broadway play has been performed at the venue

nicknamed "The World's Most Famous Arena," which is home to the New York Knicks and Rangers. The last line of the play is "All rise" and the students did exactly that, giving it a standing ovation and a hearty thank you.

"I loved the book in middle school when I read it and seeing it live and seeing the characters come to life, it's so much more real," said Alissa DiCristo, 17. "It makes



This photo provided by Ashton Woods shows a residential family room with natural wood beams as part of the ceiling in the Ashton Woods GlenPark community in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press

you feel so much more." The play's usual Broadway home is the 1,435-seat Shubert Theatre, where it's routinely sold out. But thousands of middle and high school students from all five boroughs got to see it for free, courtesy of the Scott Rudin-led production and James L. Dolan, executive chairman and CEO of The Madison Square Garden Company. The tickets were distributed by the city's education department. Free popcorn and bottles of water were also offered on the way out.

The audience this time surrounded the stage and, in the moments before the play, started using the flashlight feature on their phones to make patterns and signals, turning the Garden into a tapestry of lights, like a forest ignited with fireflies. As the play progressed, the students clapped, booed, cheered and gasped, even erupting in the same pitched excitement as a buzzer-beating 3-point basket when the stately Atticus Finch wrestled with the evil Bob Ewell. At other times, the Garden was completely silent as it felt like 18,000 young people held their breaths, particularly during courtroom scenes. "We did say how we feel and each and everyone was respectful, too, when they needed to," said 17-year-old Eric Meza, who had his first experience with a Broadway show. "It was just an amazing experience." "To Kill a Mocking-

bird" by Harper Lee won a Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and has been widely praised as a sensitive portrait of racial tension in 1930s Alabama. At its core is Finch, a lawyer called upon to defend a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman. Oscar-winning screenwriter Aaron Sorkin adapted Lee's play and it crackles with current issues: institutional racism, a flawed criminal justice system, police misconduct, sexual assault and standing against evil. Ripples of anger coursed through the crowd when racial epithets were used. "I feel like it targeted a lot of prominent issues in today's society and it really did speak to me," said Ambria Creary, 17. "Definitely there were parts where you had to react because it hurt so bad to even imagine it happening today." The entire current Broadway cast performed the show, led by Ed Harris as Finch. They practiced for the Garden show in a warehouse in Long Island City, preparing to work on their new space, a stage measuring 90 feet in length by 40 feet in width. Despite the size, the actors kept the experience intimate, rolling pieces of equipment onstage and helping put away props. Some, when not onstage, sat in chairs or a bench waiting their cues. At one point, Nick Robinson, who played Jem, gave Lisa Gay Hamilton, who played Calpurnia, a gentle hug after a pow-

erful scene. "It was magical. It felt like what theater used to like be thousands of years ago," said actor Taylor Trensch, who played Dill Harris. "It's something I'll remember forever." Mayor Bill de Blasio and city first lady Chirlane McCray introduced the show, urging the students to think about the themes of the play and urging them to embrace the arts. "You are part of history today," McCray said. Director Spike Lee, a die-hard Knicks fan, said: "Don't let anyone tell you you can't be artists. Follow your dreams." While Sorkin's script wasn't altered, the staging had to adapt to the hulking space. Eight cameras captured the action and beamed it onto four massive screens so everyone could see small details. The stage arrived in about 100 pieces and took four hours in install, including the jury box, which remains empty throughout, a signal that the audience also is complicit in the trial. On Wednesday, director Bartlett Sher paced along one side of the stage during the performance, helping actors with their sound equipment and cheering them on. Trensch thought back to his own youth and didn't initially know if the three-hour play would capture the attention of the children. He needn't have worried. "It was almost primal," he said. "There was like an electrical charge in the air that you don't get at the Shubert Theatre." □

**Caribbean Cinemas**

MORE VARIETY IN PROGRAMMING AND SHOWTIMES NOW WITH 14 SCREENS!

**PH** VIP At Paseo Herencia 582.3693

**PBP** Palm Beach Plaza Mall 586.0074

caribbeancinemas.com

Caribbean Cinemas Aruba

**FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 4**

ELISABETH MOSS | ALDIS HODGE

**THE INVISIBLE MAN**

**PH** MON-THU 7:30  
FRI 7:30 | 10:15  
SAT 2:00 4:45 7:30 | 10:15  
SUN 2:00 4:45 7:30

**CXC** MON-THU 5:20 8:00  
FRI 5:20 8:00 10:40  
SAT 2:40 5:20 8:00 | 10:40  
SUN 2:40 5:20 8:00

**PBP** MON-FRI 3:55 6:35 9:15  
SAT-SUN 1:15 3:55 6:35 9:15

**NEW THIS WEEK!**

BART EDWARDS | RICHARD BRAKE

**THE DARE**

**PH** MON-THU & SUN 8:30  
FRI-SAT 8:30 | 10:50

**PBP** MON-THU 5:00 7:15 9:30  
FRI 5:00 7:15 9:30 11:45  
SAT 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30 | 11:45  
SUN 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

KATIE HOLMES | CHRISTOPHER CONVERY

**BRAHMS: THE BOY II**

**PH** MON-THU 6:40 8:50  
FRI 6:40 8:50 11:00  
SAT 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:50 | 11:00  
SUN 2:20 4:30 6:40 8:50

**PBP** MON-THU 5:30 7:35 9:40  
FRI 5:30 7:35 9:40 11:45  
SAT 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40 | 11:45  
SUN 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40

JAMES MARSDEN | JIM CARREY

**SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 8:20  
FRI 6:00 8:20 10:40  
SAT 3:40 6:00 8:20 | 10:40  
SUN 3:40 6:00 8:20

**PBP** MON-THU 4:20 6:35 8:50  
FRI 4:20 6:35 8:50 11:05  
SAT 2:05 4:20 6:35 8:50 | 11:05  
SUN 2:05 4:20 6:35 8:50

HARRISON FORD | KAREN GILLAN

**THE CALL OF THE WILD**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 8:35  
FRI 6:00 8:35 11:05  
SAT 3:25 6:00 8:35 | 11:05  
SUN 3:25 6:00 8:35

**PBP** MON-FRI 4:15 6:45  
SAT-SUN 1:45 4:15 | 6:45

LUCY HALE | MAGGIE Q

**FANTASY ISLAND**

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 8:30  
FRI 6:00 8:30 11:00  
SAT 3:00 6:00 8:30 | 11:00  
SUN 3:00 6:00 8:30

ANYA TAYLOR-JOY | TANYA REYNOLDS

**EMMA.**

**PH** MON-FRI 5:50  
SAT-SUN 3:10 | 5:50

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

**BAD BOYS FOR LIFE**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PBP** MON-FRI 4:00 6:40 9:20  
SAT-SUN 1:20 4:00 6:40 9:20

MARGOT ROBBIE | MARY ELIZABETH WINSTED

**BIRDS OF PREY**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PBP** MON-SUN 9:25

MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY | CHARLIE HUNNAM

**THE GENTLEMEN**

WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES

**PBP** MON-SUN 9:15

**OPENING MARCH 5: ONWARD**

**THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE**

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



# Clive Cussler, million-selling adventure writer, dies at 88

By HILLEL ITALIE  
AP National Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Clive Cussler, the million-selling adventure writer and real-life thrill-seeker who wove personal details and spectacular fantasies into his page-turning novels about underwater explorer Dirk Pitt, has died, his publisher said Wednesday.

Cussler died Monday at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona, said Alexis Welby, spokeswoman for publisher Penguin Random House. He was 88. The cause was not disclosed.

Cussler dispatched Pitt and pal Al Giordino on exotic missions highlighted by shipwrecks, treachery, espionage and beautiful women, in popular works including "Cyclops," "Night Probe!" and his commercial breakthrough, "Raise the Titanic!"

Cussler was an Illinois native who was raised in Southern California and lived in Arizona for most of his final years, but he sent Pitt around the globe in plots that ranged from the bold to the incredible. "The Treasure" features an aspiring Aztec despot who murders an American envoy, the hijacking of a plane carrying the United Nations secretary-general and soldiers from ancient Rome looting the Library of Alexandria. In "Iceberg," the presidents of French Guiana and the Dominican Republic are the ones in danger, during a visit to Disneyland. In "Sahara," a race across the desert somehow leads to new information about the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

"Again and again, Dirk Pitt, working for the fictional National Underwa-



This 2007 image released by G.P. Putnam's Sons shows author Clive Cussler riding in a classic car. Associated Press

ter and Marine Agency, must find a sunken vessel and retrieve some artifact," Mark Schone, summarizing Cussler's novels, wrote in The New York Times in 2004. "Evil forces, be they Comies or Blofeldian madmen, try to stop him. Along the way Pitt saves himself, the world and the damsel of the moment."

Cussler has a new novel, "Journey of the Pharaohs," set to be released March 10, with several more awaiting posthumous publication.

In real life, Cussler founded his own National Underwater and Marine Agency and participated in dozens of searches for old ships, including one that turned up a steamship belonging to Cornelius Vanderbilt. He also had a long history of questionable claims — some admitted, some denied.

"He can definitely spin the tall tales and is a master of fiction. But that doesn't mean I buy into his alleged discovery claims," Dr. E. Lee

Spence wrote on his blog in 2011. Spence, a prominent underwater archaeologist feuded with Cussler over which of them recovered a Confederate submarine.

Born an only child in 1931 in Aurora, Illinois, and raised in Alhambra, California, Cussler's name and writing persona have the air of a pseudonym, but he was born with his moniker, named for the British actor Clive Brook. He studied for two years at Pasadena City College before enlisting in the Air Force and serving as a mechanic and flight engineer during the Korean War.

In 1955, he married Barbara Knight, with whom he had three children. Through much of the 1960s, he worked in advertising, as a copywriter and creative director. Among the better known slogans he helped coin — "It's stronger than dirt," for an Ajax laundry detergent campaign.

In his free time, he was writing fiction and moonlighting at a skin-diving equip-

ment shop, where his wife suggested he work to help gather material for his novels.

"When creating advertising, I had always looked at the competition and wondered what I could conceive that was totally different," Cussler said in an interview included in "Dirk Pitt Revealed," a nonfiction book released in 1998. "(James) Bond was becoming incredibly popular through the movies, and I knew I couldn't match Ian Fleming's style and prose. So I was determined not to write about a detective, secret agent or undercover investigator or deal in murder mysteries. My hero's adventures would be based on and under water."

Cussler finished manuscripts for "Mediterranean Caper" and "Iceberg," but had no literary agent: so he created one. He purchased a thousand sheets of blank letter paper, got a friend in advertising to design a logo for "The Charles Winthrop Agency" and sent

his first inquiry to Peter Lampack of the William Morris Agency. Lampack agreed to take on Cussler and remained with him long after the author confessed his charade.

"I told him the story of Charlie Winthrop with great trepidation," Cussler explained to the Arizona Republic. "I sat there waiting for the result, and he sat there blank for a minute, and then he laughed himself under the table. And he said, 'Oh my God. I always thought Charlie Winthrop was some guy I met while I was drunk at a cocktail party.'"

"Mediterranean Caper" came out in 1973, followed by "Iceberg" two years later and "Raise the Titanic!" in 1976. He would turn out more than 20 Dirk Pitt novels and expand into children's books and such adventure series as "The Oregon Files" and "The Numa Files."

Cussler had claimed his worldwide sales topped 100 million copies, but in a legal battle with Crusader Entertainment, which alleged he had misrepresented his popularity, it was determined the number was closer to 40 million. In 2007, a Los Angeles jury awarded Crusader \$5 million but also ordered that Cussler receive \$8.5 million because the film company only adapted one ("Sahara") of the two books it had agreed to produce.

The film version of "Sahara" came out in 2005 and starred Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz. An adaptation of "Raise the Titanic!" — its title the same except for dropping the exclamation point, came out in 1980 and featured Jason Robards and Alec Guinness. □

## Boy band BTS performs at NYC's Grand Central Terminal

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The South Korean boy band BTS performed at Grand Central Terminal in New York City for a special episode of Jimmy Fallon's "The Tonight Show."

The band performed their new single "On" with an ensemble of dancers and a marching band for

the episode, which aired on Monday. Metro-North Railroad officials told The New York Times the five-minute performance took two months to organize.

The crew of about 180 people arrived at Grand Central at about 10 p.m. on Feb. 8. The dancers and marching band rehearsed in

Vanderbilt Hall and the North West Balcony rooms while the crew set up their cameras and people left the busy transit hub, said Meredith Conti, Metro-North's manager of special events.

BTS didn't set foot on the terminal floor until it closed at 2 a.m., so they could avoid being spotted,

said Meredith Conti, Metro-North's manager of special events. They had about two hours to shoot the video before the terminal's cleaning staff arrived to wash the floors. Gavin Purcell, the show's interim showrunner, wrote on Twitter that the episode was "our love letter to this city." □



# RIGHT AT HOME: Ceilings with something to say

By KIM COOK  
Associated Press

**The ceiling** — sometimes referred to as a room's fifth wall — often gets short shrift in decorating schemes. Walls and furnishings take center stage while the acreage overhead receives a coat of neutral white paint, with perhaps a snazzy ceiling fixture.

That wasn't the case historically. Plaster ornamentation and murals were used centuries ago, and the Victorians really went to town on the ceiling, with elaborate moldings and stamped tin sheeting. Ceiling medallions graced more formal spaces like dining rooms and parlors, while timber beams and tongue-and-groove boards were popular in kitchens, bedrooms and common spaces. Through the early 20th century, curvy coving, paneled grids and ornate moldings were popular.

But with the advent of modernism after the 1930s, ceilings became the serene planes most of us are familiar with.

Now we're looking up again. Designers are really getting creative with architectural elements, as well as paint, wallpaper and lighting.

"Statement ceilings are a great way to bring detail and visual interest to a room," says Gideon Mendelson, founder and creative director of his New York-based eponymous design group. "We see them as an opportunity to create something unexpected that adds to the



This undated photo shows a ceiling design by Gideon Mendelson, founder of Mendelson Group, in a Westchester County, N.Y., home.

Associated Press

space."

For one client in the New York suburbs, he'd been tasked with creating a classic white kitchen, but he wanted to add some personality.

"The client loved checks and plaids, so a decorative painter painted a green checkered design on a canvas and then installed it on the ceiling. The color matches the green on the kitchen island, so it ties the room together and makes the space feel that much more special."

The positive reaction to that ceiling spurred Mendelson's team to include them in other projects. "We quickly realized how impactful and powerful they can be. It immediately makes the space feel like one-of-a-kind. In almost



This image released by DKC/O&M shows the cast of "To Kill a Mockingbird" on stage after a special performance for students at Madison Square Garden in New York on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

Associated Press

every project we do now, there's some ceiling treatment."

He turned traditional Tudor style on its ear in another project by creating a modern design made of oak for the ceiling. And in a Hamptons retreat, faux-wood wallcovering from the French firm Nobilis added a beachy feel to the ceiling, punctuated with fresh Lilly Pulitzer-esque green paint.

As well as millwork and wallpaper, Mendelson's done custom hand-painting on ceilings.

"It sets it apart from the rest of the home, and gives the space its own personality," he says.

Miami interior designer Christopher Coleman had some fun with a child's bedroom in Coral Gables, Florida, putting a deliciously glossy deep pink Stark pat-

ent leather on the ceiling. In the same home, Coleman installed a series of architectural wood beams across the ceiling in both the dining area and a bathroom, giving the spaces a Japanese country-house vibe.

In a Roxbury, Connecticut, country home, designer Philip Gorri van ran wallpaper up the walls and across the ceilings in several rooms, including a Cole & Son's Fornasetti leaf print in the dining room and a storm-cloud print called Nuvolette, also by Fornasetti, in a boy's room. Wrapping rooms in strong patterns like this creates drama, and in nurseries and children's rooms can spark imagination.

Smooth-finished ceilings make it easy to apply whatever you can dream up: paint, peel and stick or traditional wallpapers, or even ornamentation like origami, decals, buttons, faux jewels, botanicals, twigs, garlands, ribbon, stencils or scarves.

Command strips will hold most lightweight objects firmly to a smooth ceiling, but if you're stuck with one of those textured ceilings, you'll either have to refinish it or opt for wood paneling or tin sheets.

Not ready to fully dress your ceiling? You can still add some excitement there with a light fixture.

"A ceiling statement doesn't have to involve complicated architectural details," points out Leigh Spicher, design studio director for the Atlanta-based homebuilding group Ashton Woods. "It can also be created by adding a chandelier that contrasts in either style or scale to the room."

Sometimes an unexpected bonus comes from creating a statement ceiling. Chris Coleman remembers a project in Manhattan a few years ago, in a 39th floor apartment: "The husband said what do we do with the ceiling?

And I said lacquer it, and they were so ecstatic when they saw the yellow taxis reflected in the ceiling." □



This photo provided by Ashton Woods shows a residential bedroom with a painted beam ceiling in the Ashton Woods Ridgefield Farms community in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press